Glad Tidings

inside: **"Blessed are the pure in heart"**

January/February 2005

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On the cover: Tanishia Satterswaite
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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women’s Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

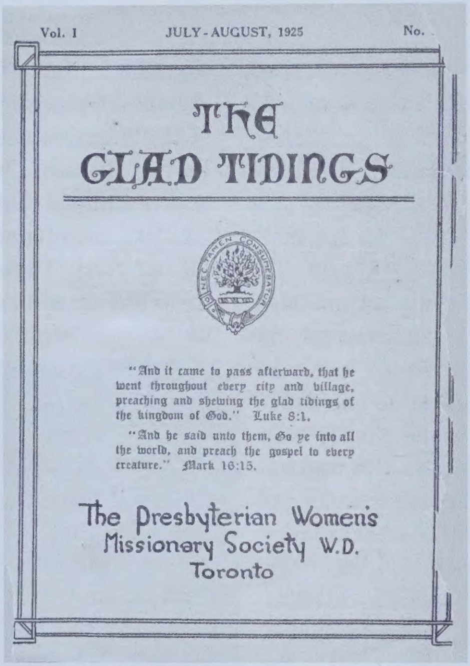
"Blessed are the Pure in Heart": A Tribute to Mamie Fraser

In this, the 80th anniversary year of *Glad Tidings*, it is a true honour to write about the first editor, Mamie Catherine Georgina Fraser. The first issue of *Glad Tidings* came off the press in July 1925, just after the massive disruption of Church Union. She remained its Editor until her untimely death in 1935. As Archivist of the Church, I have seen ample evidence that the WMS organization has documented its history tremendously well throughout the years. Our own national Archives holds the Society's collection of historical materials: published histories, correspondence, minutes, reports, personal journals, leaflets, brochures, booklets, study resources, photographs and, as well, the Society's own periodicals. *Glad Tidings* has been a shining example of fine writing, reporting and documentation for the WMS (WD) organization for eight decades; all originating with Miss Fraser's fine journalistic skills.

Mamie Fraser was born in Hamilton, yet soon after her birth the family re-located to Inverness, Scotland, her father's homeland, where she received her early education. They later returned to Canada, settling in St. Thomas, Ontario. She attended Alma College, and as an outstanding student, she graduated as valedictorian of her class. That same year, she also received an additional award of merit there, distinguishing herself as

Mistress of the College. Following a desire to use her journalism skills, she moved to Toronto to begin her calling with the Presbyterian Church and the Women's Missionary Society. She was a faithful member of Parkdale Presbyterian Church, serving on their local auxiliary for many years.

As part of her calling, Miss Fraser involved herself in many and varied areas of both her Church life and her journalist life. She was a valued member of the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Women's Press Club. Her 24 year-long career path began as associate editor of the *Home Mission Pioneer* and then subsequently she became associate editor of the *Missionary Messenger*. For a short time she was Acting Editor of *The Bulletin*, an ecumenical publication. Under her editorship, this publication had the second largest subscription list of any women's magazine in the world. Serving on the WMS executive board at the time of Church Union, she was one of only 18 members of that board to re-dedicate themselves to the WMS and the cause of the Continuing Presbyterian Church in Canada. The WMS faced a huge challenge as the memberships vote on the issue of Church Union essentially split the organization in half.



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THE GLAD TIDINGS

"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God." Luke 8:1.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society W.D. Toronto

Cover of the first volume of *The Glad Tidings*

As Editor of the *Glad Tidings*, "a post she occupied with distinction and wide acceptance," she was known for her keen ambition and desire to make a real success of the magazine in terms of the quality of editing and the educational message it sent. In her very first issue she modestly indicated in a footnote, "her appreciation of the honour which they have conferred upon her in calling her to this high office." Reflecting the Society's overall work at the time, *Glad Tidings* was the official organ for communicating information on: mission work in Canada and overseas, new projects, immigration, native work in Canada, and inner city work. Consequently, it served as a most effective connecting link between the auxiliaries, presbyterials and synodicals.

The name of the magazine was chosen by Olive Wagner of the Parkdale Presbyterian Church auxiliary "so they made a record of it, and because the joy of the Lord was in their hearts, they named it the Glad Tidings." There was a great need to build up the Presbyterian Church again after the disruption of 1925; what better than a motivational publication that provided its readership with a vast array of articles relating to the work of Christian mission and youth. It served to both educate the members and to promote the organization to the world. As of 1931, Miss Fraser decided to create issues with special themes: 1931 featured overseas fields, 1932 detailed national work, and 1932-1933 told of organizational involvement by the PCC. In 1935, she had already created the list of Church projects that would tell of the work that was internationally sponsored by the WMS (WD). The price at this time was a mere 35¢ per year. It was a source of pride that the magazine could be kept at a modest cost in keeping with their 1925 Constitution's *aim and purpose*, "to unite the women, girls, and children of the Church in prayer, study and service for the advancement of the Kingdom of God at home and abroad."

The Editor was ambitious when it came to the magazine. Between 1925 and 1927, *Glad Tidings* grew from 25 pages to 40 pages in length. Subscriptions were more than healthy by 1927 at 21,000 yet she hoped to reach 25,000 by the end of that same year. The WMS, along with the Board of World Missions and the re-named General Board of Mission was active at the highest level of Presbyterian mission work in Canada and overseas. These reports often came in a letter format and offered both humourous as well as touching Christian stories. The regular features included: her own timely editorial, prayers, reports from the mission fields (re: hospitals, schools), reports from the WMS Library Department stories for boys and girls, memorials, conference programmes, and book reviews. Miss Fraser included a request in a 1927 article called: "Books and Thimbles" asking that those with extra books share them with those in need in their neighbourhood. She received a response far greater than expected, as a single donor sent her the funds to cover 50 new subscriptions for those in Northern Ontario. She was always open and proud to promote the value of the Society's magazine within the very pages of the magazine itself.

Mamie Fraser passed away on 14 February 1935 at Wellesley Hospital, Toronto, after a short illness of eight weeks. Her funeral took place in the Knox College chapel and was conducted by many of the church dignitaries of the time. The WMS (WD) paid special tribute to her at their 26 February 1935 Council Executive meeting in a

Resolution in Memory of Miss Fraser: "She aimed at perfection in her work, striving by correctness of statement, beauty of expression, and wide variety of matter to educate and inspire her readers." Agnes Dickson, longtime member of the WMS, paid a lovely tribute to her: "There can never be another Miss Fraser. She reminded me of a dainty piece of Dresden china, as she came forward with her smile of welcome, and her warm greeting whenever I passed her office. Not only so, but I always felt how deeply and genuinely interested she was in me and all my work. Everyone I am sure felt the same about her. May the memory of her gentle courtesy, and faithful service be a constant inspiration to those of us who are left to carry on." The March 1935 issue of *Glad Tidings* began with a lovely photograph of the lady herself. Underneath is written: "Blessed are the pure in heart." This particular issue was done on high glossy paper with special font styles – all donated to the WMS by the magazine's printer in praise of Miss Fraser. Personal tributes to her were numerous – too numerous to print every one. The March 1935 *Presbyterian Record* described her as a "beautiful personality" and one who was "loved and beloved," "gifted with her pen," "a wonderful Christian" possessing "sweetness of voice and manner."

> "May the memory of her gentle courtesy, and faithful service be a constant inspiration to those of us who are left to carry on."

Bessie MacMurchy, President of the WMS at the time, said of her, "I want to pay tribute to her loyal support of me personally and of the policies of this Council Executive, to her sweet patience, to her understanding friendship, her love which made the path of life so pleasant for her friends, to her readiness to take suggestions about what she wrote – not all of us have this latter grace … let us remember her in sunshine, in joy, with thankfulness and gratitude to God for such a friend."

From the very start, Mamie Fraser was true to her calling as a Presbyterian Christian Woman. Giving 24 years of editorial service to the Church, and especially as Editor of her beloved *Glad Tidings*, she shared her special gifts with a wide readership in her determined quest to "Go, and tell." Well done, true and faithful servant.

Kim Arnold
Archivist

Mission is Truly a Two-Way Street

by Clarabeth McIntosh

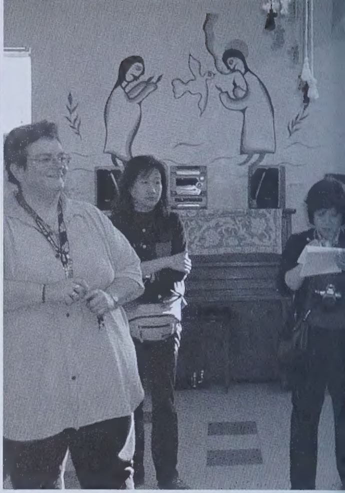
What a challenge – to capture on paper the adventure in learning and sharing experienced by ten sisters from the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ), as they visited Canada from September 22–October 8. In Vancouver, Calgary, Banff, Winnipeg, Toronto and Guelph, they reaped the benefit of many years of supportive partnership with the WMS, and your generosity touched their hearts deeply. It was a particular joy to share the whole of our journey with Executive Director, Rev. Sarah Kim, whose fluency in Korean was a welcome bonus, and to benefit from the driving skills of other staff members, Kathy Ball and Katherine Allen along our route, too.

Billeted for the first five days with families of West Point Grey Church, our friends were able to test their English skills and relax in comfortable surroundings, sallying forth each day for new experiences in Vancouver. Under the guidance of Dr. Roberta Clare, Director of the Elders' Institute at St. Andrew's Hall, our visitors shared a lively and helpful exchange of practical concerns as churchwomen. They look forward to what Roberta hopes may be a forthcoming Korean language course designed for elders. Dinner that evening brought together former friends from the KCCJ now residing in Canada, including Dr. Tamiko Corbett. In one of those delightful surprises our Lord prepares for us along life's way, one of our visitors recognized in Kyung Hee Park

KCCJ with some WMS members in Banff, Calgary

RAINBOW MISSION

Outside the Rainbow Mission, Vancouver, British Columbia



Anishinabe Fellowship Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

her pastor's daughter and school friend of almost fifty years ago!

There were other highlights in Vancouver too. Having just initiated a program of pastoral counselling for Korean women in Japan, including a telephone ministry, our guests appreciated hearing of Rev. Karen McAndless-Davis's experience in counselling women caught in situations of domestic violence. Later that day, a festive evening at West Point Grey brought together members of many of the area's WMS groups for an evening of sharing stories and song. Next morning proved a bit of a jolt for our KCCJ visitors, when they ventured down to Vancouver's East Side to participate in a worship experience at the Rainbow Mission, an outreach ministry of the Han Ca Presbytery. Over lunch with Rev. and Mrs. Hong of Surrey Korean Church, they were introduced to the Koreans' Love Corps program among First Nations youth in British Columbia. VST graduate, Mary Fontaine's new Hummingbird Ministries among the lower west coast native communities captured their hearts and eager support as well. Sunday brought worship experiences in both English and Japanese, shared with Rev. Maki Fushii, my daughter-in-law, who has just become pastor of the Japanese United Church in Vancouver.

Not to be outdone on the hospitality circuit, Calgary's WMS, under the guidance of their president, Marg Befus, planned an enjoyable evening program at Varsity Acres Church. On that occasion, Margaret Brooker's thoughtful message on friendship was ably interpreted into Japanese by Kyung Ja Cho, formerly a deaconess in the KCCJ, and now resident in Edmonton. Banff lived up to all our expectations next day, thanks to our Calgary drivers, the culinary skills of the Banff WMS, and superb weather conditions.

In Winnipeg, visits to both Flora House and Anishinabe Fellowship Centre provided insight into the extent of the WMS concern for our First Nations communities – truly an experience destined to live long in the hearts of our ten guests. Thank you, Warren Whittaker and Rev. Margaret Mullin for your caring witness there. And thank you, too, Joanne Instance, for the warm reception at St. James Church that evening. Our time in Winnipeg was all too short, but very valuable.

From our comfortable base at the missionary residence during the next week, we were able to pack in a succession of much appreciated learning/sharing experiences in Toronto: reunions with former missionary partners, Donna and Rodger Talbot and their daughter, Patti, Bob and Priscilla Anderson, and Jean Sonnenfeld; visits to Evangel Hall and the Massey Centre – Housing and Resources for Pregnant Young Women and Single mothers, as well as a stimulating afternoon with staff members at the United Church Offices. But it was the hours spent with your WMS National Executive Committee on two separate days at Wynford Drive which encouraged our visitors to ask the questions which were uppermost in their minds concerning your journeys as women towards decision-making roles in your churches. The stories they shared in printed materials during their weeks with us offer an excellent description of issues of concern in the KCCJ today. Though time did not permit a thorough digestion of that material during their visit, I do hope that the contents may serve as a helpful base for preparing a return exchange visit to Japan next June.

While in Toronto, we were also indebted to the Han Ca Women's Association, whose members shared their experiences and mission concerns after Sunday service at St. Timothy's Korean Church, pastored by Sarah Kim's husband, Rev. In Kee Kim. Of special interest was their extensive Telecare Family Service: Crisis Help Line with its associated counselling education and volunteer training program. Having hosted our visitors

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Clarabeth McIntosh and the KCCJ women visiting Jack McIntosh's grave

Blessed are the Children

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed" (Luke 4:18, GNB).

Flora House Kids Club

Flora House, one of the two missions of The Winnipeg Inner City Missions of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, received wonderful news this past June. The mission has been awarded a $40,000 one year grant from the Royal Bank of Canada. This grant will enable Flora House to operate a skill based five days a week co-educational after-school program for 30 children ages 6-10. Children will be offered the opportunity to improve their skills in the areas of recreation, fine arts, and academics through a Monday to Friday two and a half hour daily period. If the program has been successful after evaluation of the first year, then 85% of the total amount of the grant will be made available for a second year.

Flora House is located in an area where many citizens have acute and chronic challenges associated with poverty. The opportunity to provide a free skill based program for children was welcomed by the community residents. This venture, although unique to the area, will work well with the other organized efforts that the community is working on to improve the quality of life in this region.

The program started on September 20th with a full registration and several children were placed on the waiting list. In keeping with the mandate of the program, children have been receiving weekly professional art instruction, swimming lessons, skill based recreational training in the gym of the local elementary public school, and assistance in mathematics and reading at Flora House. On one occasion, a member of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra visited the children. He talked with them about music and played an instrument for them.

The importance of having this type of program in the mission area can not be understated. It is a vision of this program to give children, who may not otherwise have the opportunity (because of poverty), a better chance to realize their entire God given gifts and abilities. I thank God for this grant and for the fact that I've been allowed the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit move through the organized outreach of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Royal Bank of Canada.

In the service of our Lord,
Warren Whittaker
Director of Programming
Winnipeg Inner City Missions

WMS President's Itinerary 2004 Margaret McGillivray

May -on the Personnel Committee that hired Holly Wilson as the new editor of *Glad Tidings*

June -attended the 130th General Assembly Meeting in Oshawa.

June 15 -bid farewell to retiring editor L. June Stevenson with a well attended reception at Wynford Drive offices.

August -attended the 75th Anniversary celebrations of Camp Kintail on the shores of Lake Huron.

August 8-11 -attended a four day conference with the Catholic Women's League in London (see page 42 of the Nov. /Dec. 2004 *Glad Tidings*).

October -WMS Council met in Toronto with the 10 visiting women from the Korean Christian Church in Japan and their interpreter Beth McIntosh.

November -attended the Life and Mission Agency meetings at Crieff; spoke at the Hamilton Presbyterial Fall Rally; and attended the General Assembly Council meetings also at Crieff.

In addition, Margaret has spoken and shown her slides of Malawi to the Sarnia, Maitland, and Huron-Perth Presbyterials and Toronto-Kingston Synodical.

Wait

Wait...
The night is over
Dawn breaks through
with rosy overtones
Stretching
in strands across the sky
I kneel before God
hands outstretched
In the knowledge that
He loves me
Sometimes
I need to wait
I want my answers fast
God takes my outstretched hand
And says
Wait...
And in His love
I do.

Maureen E. Kowal

Margaret McGillivray

Communication -The "In Thing"

by Doris M. Johnston

"Ha! We don't communicate in our family. My parents just talk. They haven't heard a word I said in years."

I strained my ears to hear what followed, but the two boys, sitting just ahead of me in the bus, were talking quietly. I could only catch isolated words over the traffic noises. I sat back and thought: How do we as parents communicate? Do our children know when we are sad? Do we tell them how embarrassed we feel when we make a social blunder, or why we dislike loud music? Do they know that we have feelings, just like they have? How are they supposed to find out unless we tell them?

"You didn't cry when Butch was killed. You didn't like him," my neighbour's child accused her mom.

"Of course I liked Butch – and I cried too – I didn't want to upset you though," her mother answered. "I cried in my room."

Teenagers and those younger do have a valid complaint. We parents are guilty of not communicating. We expect our children to know when we are worried, but we say nothing to them about our friend's terminal illness. We expect them to know when we are angry and why, but all we do is scowl, and bang the cupboard doors. Why don't we tell them that it took an hour to clean the black heel marks off the hall floor after their party? Well maybe they would rather clean the floor than look at our frowning faces.

We also expect them to know that we are pleased when they pass their first math test in three, but do we tell them, or simply growl, "It's about time." Children like the rest of us need all the encouragement they can get, just think how we would feel if after completing a task we didn't want to do, and thinking we had done a good job, no one patted us on the back and said "well done."

When I was thirteen, my Dad told me I looked just like his mother. As the only likeness I had ever seen of her was a faded unflattering snapshot, I was deeply insulted. Dad never knew why I had screamed at him, and refused to speak with him for the rest of the week. Years later I found out that he thought his mother was a beautiful woman. If I had asked him why he said I looked like her I would not have suffered such untold mental anguish, thinking I was going to be a plain Jane. If Dad had let me know how much he loved and admired his mother, he would not have had memories of me screaming, "I don't want to look like your ugly old mother." I never met my Grandmother, but when I took a trip to England, met some of the relations and was shown some lovely pictures of her, I was ashamed and I knew why Dad had gone out of the room and cried.

How can we understand our children if we don't listen to them and share our feelings with them?

There isn't much point in sending smoke signals if your offspring has his eyes shut. Get his attention, and then let him say what he has to say. After you give your side and you feel that both sides of the issue have been covered just sit with him for awhile. Maybe he won't agree with you but at least he will know how you feel and you will have somewhere to start from.

How can we understand our children if we don't listen to them and share our feelings with them? Let them know we are only human too.

Treat our tweens and teenagers as responsible people and they will respond and live up to our expectations.

Communication is the act of giving and receiving information. Now is the time for us to get into the act.

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KCCJ Visit

overnight in their homes, our Han Ca friends then drove the group to Niagara Falls the next day for another unforgettable Canadian experience. The KCCJ women look forward to a return visit on the other side of the Pacific soon.

One more excursion needs mentioning – our outing to St. Jacobs Farmers Market, followed by precious hours in Guelph. There, under a spreading oak tree at Woodlawn cemetery we sang at the grave of my husband, Jack, our beloved Maek Moksanim, and together felt comforted by the thought that his spirit was alive and well in our midst. Hopefully, the Jack McIntosh Memorial Fund may continue to be used to encourage similar exchanges of women and youth in the years ahead. An evening of fellowship hosted by the Knox WMS, thanks to Presbyterial President, Wilma Welsh, brought this eventful visit to an end, but not before our ladies had inadvertently eaten up the delicious snack prepared that evening for the choir!

In closing, let me express my personal thanks for the privilege of being invited to accompany my friends across Canada on this first KCCJ women's exchange visit to our churches, and for the joy of having all four of our children – Mira in Japan, and David, Janette, and Gwyn in Canada – involved as translators and interpreters in the process.

Non-Judgmental Leadership
Five Lessons to Be a Leader at Home
by John Kuypers

Christian men are struggling to be relationship leaders at home, caught in the dilemma between the “hammer and the doormat.” If a man pressures his wife or children to do things his way, he is accused of using the “hammer.” If the resulting emotional reaction gets too hot, he bounces the other way and becomes a resentful doormat. Author and Christian relationship coach John Kuypers gives Christians a way out with a practical, spiritual approach to leading with Christian love in your heart.

Jesus was a non-judgmental leader. By his words, he taught in Matthew 7:1, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." By his actions in John 8:7, he showed, "If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." He did not condemn the adulteress. He showed compassion and mercy in the face of her guilt. When we do the same to our loved ones, they will respond to us freely and willingly, just as we do to Jesus’ love for us.

Embracing non-judgment is like experiencing a miracle in action. I have had that joy many times. This joy only happens when I first become non-judgmental. Two rocky separations in my second marriage were both turned around. A two year divorce battle with my ex-wife over child access settled into a generous agreement with a warm relationship. God blessed me with the courage to heal my superficial relationship with my father after fifteen years of suppressed resentments and emotional distance.

Christians, men and women alike, are missing out on the joy and peace that comes when we stop judging. To judge is to condemn. To not judge is to forgive. They are opposites. In every moment, we are given this choice. When your wife says she will do something, and then doesn’t do it, you have a choice. When she criticizes you for not doing enough, you have a choice. When your child turns up her nose at the fine dinner you prepared, you have a choice. When your partner refuses to make love when you are in the mood, you have a choice. Our judgments are a burden to ourselves, measured back to us in the measure we give out.

We judge in order to get control, by getting people to do things *our* way. We learn at an early age that judging people actually works. Dad yelled and we immediately obeyed. Mom criticized and we reluctantly started doing our chores. We ourselves got mad at our parents, refusing to speak to them, and they responded by suddenly paying attention to us, instead of working.

In truth, judging just as often does not work, and it always comes at a price. Recently, I asked my wife to leave her cell phone on so I could call her at the end of the day, during a long 2 ½ hour drive home. When I went to call her, the operator came on saying in that annoying nasal tone, "The customer you have dialed is currently not available. Please try again later." Four times that happened. When I got home, she lamely pointed out how she forgot to charge the phone batteries, something that had happened two or three times in the past.

Before I could stop myself, I said, "I sometimes wonder why we even *bother* having a second cell phone." An angry look flashed across her face. "You know what! Just get rid of it. I am tired of all the grief you give me over that phone." In one heartbeat, my judgmental comment resulted in her canceling the phone, which was exactly the *opposite* of what I wanted from her!

Judging is an attack on our loved ones and they will respond by getting defensive. Instead of willingly following our lead, they fiercely dig in and resist our lead. We are not leading if no one is following. We are alone! For many men, this is the situation they frequently fall into, avoiding the risk of an angry rebuttal and an unpleasant conflict with their wife or children.

Leadership is measurable. You want someone to Stop doing something (red light), Start doing something (yellow light) or Keep doing something (green light). I call this the *Leadership Traffic Light*. In my leadership coaching work, I help clients to get clear about what it is that they want. My first challenge is to help them see past their judgments. I focus on Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:5, "First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

The plank in our eye is our judgments. I asked one client what was bothering him about his wife. He said, "She's such a slob!" I asked him if he could do "slob" for me. He looked at me somewhat strangely. "What do you mean," he asked.
"I mean can you do that behaviour?"
"Sure," he said, picking up his papers and throwing them all over the floor.
"Is that 'slob' or is that leaving papers all over the floor?"
By this time, the lights were going on.
"Papers all over the floor, of course."
"Okay," I said, "so what do you really want from her in behavioural terms?"
"I guess I want her to not leave dirty, wet towels lying all over the bathroom floor."
"Ah-h, now you have a real leadership goal. How long have you wanted her to do this?"

He grimaced. "Oh, about ten years!"
"And what have you done to get her to stop that habit?"
"I've told her about a million times!" he said, the resentment oozing out of his voice.
"And is it working?" I asked calmly.
He face grew ashen. "No. It's not working."
After a few moments, I asked him, "Do you know what the definition of insanity is?"
"No, what is it?"
"It's when you keep doing the same thing over and over, expecting to get a different result!" He laughed.

Many men are frustrated about leadership at home. They've tried the hammer a "million" times. When it doesn't work, they give up and become doormats. Their resentment is the evidence of "doormat." Their anger is the evidence of "hammer." Their judgments emerge as unkind labels that critically judge their loved ones. "*She's a slob!*" No she's not. She is someone who leaves towels on the floor three times a week. "*She spends money like crazy!*" No she doesn't. She is someone who spends money differently than you spend money.

You must learn five key leadership skills to become non-judgmental:

1. You set them free
2. You are real, not nice.
3. You are compassionate, not righteous
4. You are wise, not smart
5. You are purposeful, not successful.

Non-judgment is to stop approving and disapproving of others. Then you will easily reveal your *real* thoughts and feelings, and get real resolutions. You will listen with *compassion* instead of "advice." You will *wisely* encourage behaviour change in your loved ones, rather than judgmentally pressuring them. You will also remain true to God's *purpose* for your life if conflicts arise between God's will and what your family would rather you did with your life.

With non-judgment, your loved ones feel the love of Christ that dwells within. As Jesus said, "As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it" (John 12:47). Love saves. Love never fails. To not judge, is to love others as Jesus loves us.

This article is based on *The Non-Judgmental Christian: Five Lessons That Will Revolutionize Your Relationships* by John Kuypers ©2004 Present Living & Learning Inc. John Kuypers is the Director of Steady Hands Divorce Prevention Ministry, coaching Christians to become relationship experts. www.steadyhands.org

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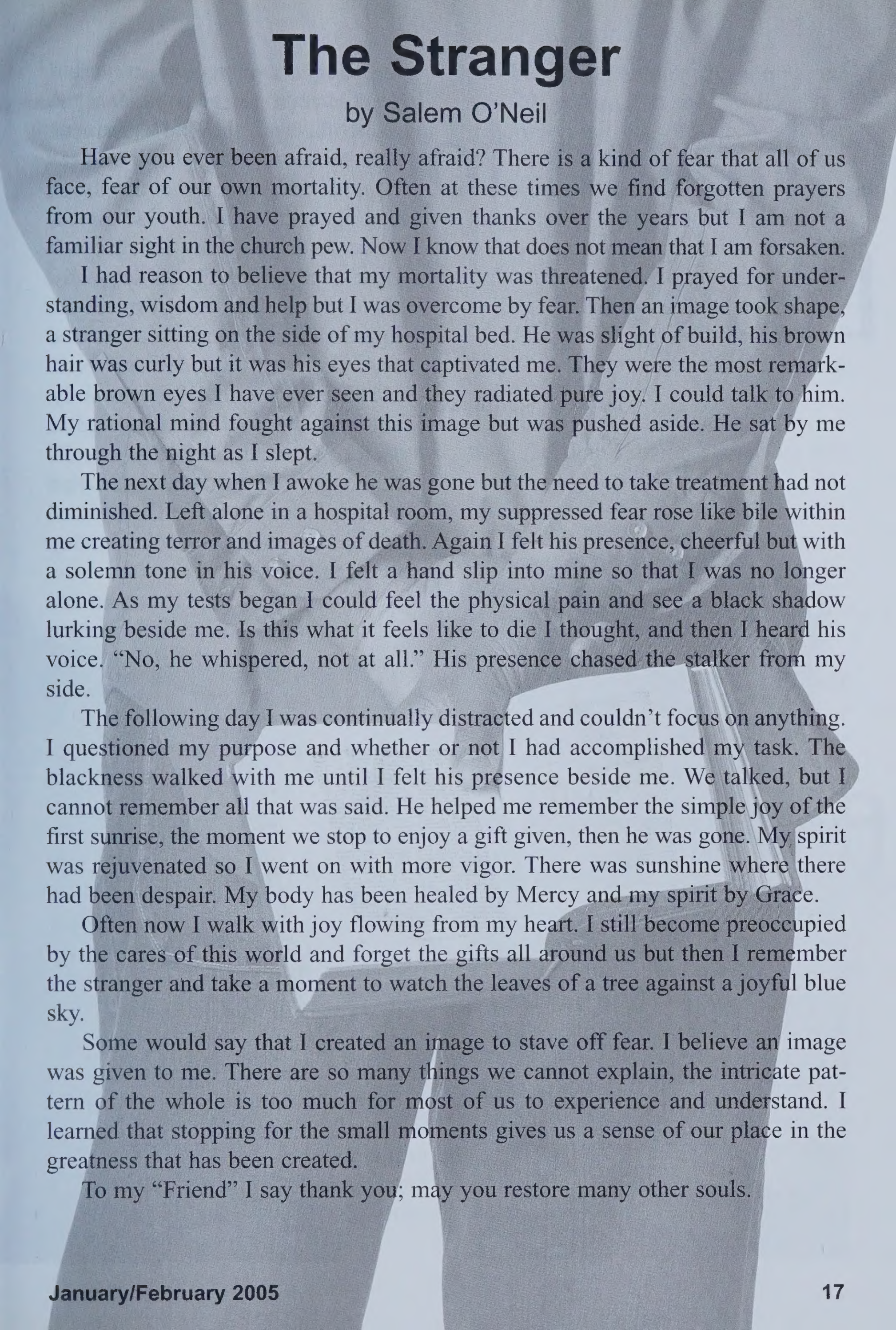


The Stranger

by Salem O'Neil

Have you ever been afraid, really afraid? There is a kind of fear that all of us face, fear of our own mortality. Often at these times we find forgotten prayers from our youth. I have prayed and given thanks over the years but I am not a familiar sight in the church pew. Now I know that does not mean that I am forsaken.

I had reason to believe that my mortality was threatened. I prayed for understanding, wisdom and help but I was overcome by fear. Then an image took shape, a stranger sitting on the side of my hospital bed. He was slight of build, his brown hair was curly but it was his eyes that captivated me. They were the most remarkable brown eyes I have ever seen and they radiated pure joy. I could talk to him. My rational mind fought against this image but was pushed aside. He sat by me through the night as I slept.

The next day when I awoke he was gone but the need to take treatment had not diminished. Left alone in a hospital room, my suppressed fear rose like bile within me creating terror and images of death. Again I felt his presence, cheerful but with a solemn tone in his voice. I felt a hand slip into mine so that I was no longer alone. As my tests began I could feel the physical pain and see a black shadow lurking beside me. Is this what it feels like to die I thought, and then I heard his voice. "No, he whispered, not at all." His presence chased the stalker from my side.

The following day I was continually distracted and couldn't focus on anything. I questioned my purpose and whether or not I had accomplished my task. The blackness walked with me until I felt his presence beside me. We talked, but I cannot remember all that was said. He helped me remember the simple joy of the first sunrise, the moment we stop to enjoy a gift given, then he was gone. My spirit was rejuvenated so I went on with more vigor. There was sunshine where there had been despair. My body has been healed by Mercy and my spirit by Grace.

Often now I walk with joy flowing from my heart. I still become preoccupied by the cares of this world and forget the gifts all around us but then I remember the stranger and take a moment to watch the leaves of a tree against a joyful blue sky.

Some would say that I created an image to stave off fear. I believe an image was given to me. There are so many things we cannot explain, the intricate pattern of the whole is too much for most of us to experience and understand. I learned that stopping for the small moments gives us a sense of our place in the greatness that has been created.

To my "Friend" I say thank you; may you restore many other souls.

Chosen to Lead

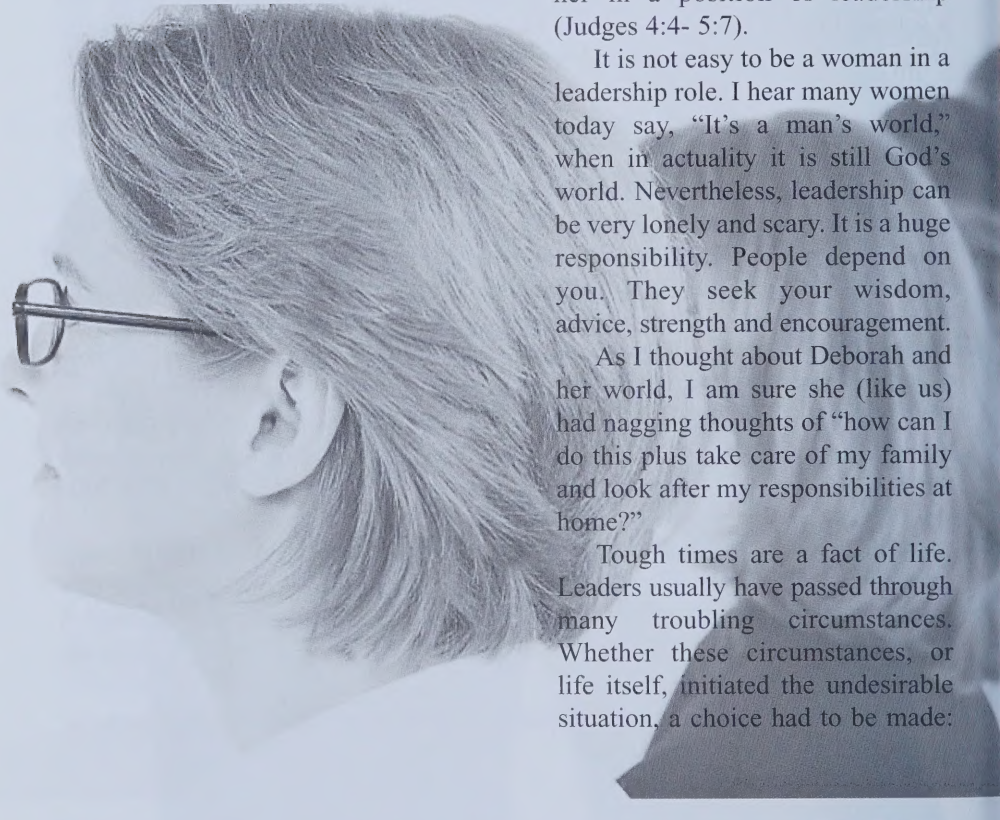
by Gail Northgrave

Today's woman, as in yesteryear, needs to be multifaceted. Deborah, from the Old Testament, was such a woman. History, in the book of Judges, tells us that Israel had again disregarded God's laws. They "did what they thought was right" (Judges 21:25). Consequently, their moral decline resulted in oppression. They cried out to God for help. As always, He answered. He gave them Deborah. Apparently, she was the only female judge in Israel and she ruled for forty years. Although Deborah was a married woman with children, God placed her in a position of leadership (Judges 4:4- 5:7).

It is not easy to be a woman in a leadership role. I hear many women today say, "It's a man's world," when in actuality it is still God's world. Nevertheless, leadership can be very lonely and scary. It is a huge responsibility. People depend on you. They seek your wisdom, advice, strength and encouragement.

As I thought about Deborah and her world, I am sure she (like us) had nagging thoughts of "how can I do this plus take care of my family and look after my responsibilities at home?"

Tough times are a fact of life. Leaders usually have passed through many troubling circumstances. Whether these circumstances, or life itself, initiated the undesirable situation, a choice had to be made:



A choice to quit or a choice to forge on and believe for better days. Instead of allowing life to destroy them, leaders survive; thus, gaining wisdom, understanding and compassion. They become an asset to others who are experiencing life's woes. Assuredly, Deborah had her trying days. It was those experiences that revealed to her God's empowerment to meet all her responsibilities with grace and ease.

According to John C. Maxwell, author of *Developing the Leader Within You*, one of the most important aspects of leadership is attitude.

Since life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react, leaders must develop a positive attitude if they are to succeed. Apparently, over 500 executives attributed their success more to attitude than to any other ingredient.

Undoubtedly, Deborah had studied the Old Testament Scriptures that were available to her. She knew her God and that He was the positive force in her life. Therefore, whether or not we realize it, going from a negative to a positive attitude is only possible with the help of God. Consequently, believing and having faith in God is of utmost importance. Just as it did for Deborah, our faith will make a difference in the battles of life.

Courageous, intelligent and committed to God, Deborah told Barak, a Military General, to go to the River Kishon because God was going to deliver Jabin's army, his chariots and multitudes into his hands. However, this big strong soldier was afraid and said, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go" (Judges 4:8).

Deborah left her home and headed into battle with Barak. However, because he lacked faith without Deborah's presence to conquer the enemy, God denied him the privilege of killing Sisera the commander of Jabin's army. Instead a woman named Jael killed him.

Our world is not much different from Deborah's world. People are still doing what they think is right, regardless of God's laws. Battles against oppression, disease, poverty, loneliness, discord and suffering still need to be waged and won. Thus, like Deborah, the closer we draw to God through prayer, Bible study and meditation the more leadership qualities we will attain. Then we will see victories not only in our lives and in the lives of those we love but in our world.

This year we celebrate 80 years of *Glad Tidings* magazine. The cover photo symbolizes the hopeful spirit that has kept this publication alive for so many years. We look for divine inspiration, and guidance from above with joy and faith in our hearts.

Please join me in the prayer that *Glad Tidings* through its content will continue to encourage readers to become informed, educated, inspired and motivated to action for many more years to come.

Wishing you peace and comfort in 2005.

GT

A World without AID

photos: (above) Rebecca, 14, attends school and receives assistance from the Blantyre Synod of Malawi. She has two brothers and a sister. Their parents have died of AIDS.

(opposite page) Some of the children that are supported by the Community Care Orphans Project of the Blantyre Synod.

Can you imagine a world without AIDS? Presbyterian churches in Canada can.

Hearing the call of church partners in Africa, Asia and Central America for help to cope with the global scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and responding to God's call, The 130th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, June 6-11, 2004, launched a special appeal to tackle the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The appeal, led by Presbyterian World Service & Development, has set a goal of raising an initial $500,000 - over and above regular contributions to PWS&D and *Presbyterians Sharing...* – to support global partners in their fight against HIV and AIDS. Accessible to all The Presbyterian Church in Canada departments this initial fund will allow the PCC to respond to overseas partners' requests, as well as to projects within Canada.

To date, the Women's Missionary Society has supported HIV/AIDS education initiatives at Chigodi, a women's centre in Malawi, as well as a prevention education initiative in Kenya that involved producing HIV/AIDS informative bookmarks.

WMS members are encouraged to continue their support of those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS through prayer, study, and financial assistance. Additional resources on this campaign may be ordered from The Book Room (order forms are available on the Web site http://www.presbyterian.ca/bookroom/ordering.html).

The Lord Helped

by Cecil E. Burridge

Though retired, I was asked to present a Bible study at the Christian Business Men's Committee breakfast in Newmarket, Ontario. Living in Bradford at the time, I had been regularly attending these meetings, and had enjoyed rich Christian fellowship and the breakfast served at just under $4.00 a plate; however, most people gave the treasurer $5.00 and he settled with the manager.

For personal reasons I decided not to attend the next meeting. Then I received the phone call with the request to conduct the Bible study. I agreed, but I was unavoidably delayed the morning of the breakfast and expected to be late arriving.

The Bible tells us that Jesus said, "ask, and it shall be given" (Matthew 7:7). I asked: "Lord, if it's your will that I conduct the Bible study this morning, help me to arrive on time, even if you have to make all the traffic lights green between here and there."

There were no red lights. I successively passed through ten green lights and barely slowed down at the intersections. I arrived on time without exceeding the speed limit. Before the study began I told the members about the almost unbelievable experience. Everyone agreed the Lord must have wanted me there.

The Bible study was well received. A special speaker brought an inspiring message. The gospel songs led by a male duo with guitars were uplifting. The fellowship was great!

When I approached the treasurer to pay for my breakfast he wouldn't take my money. "Your breakfast is paid for," he said. "This is yours too," he said as he handed me a twenty dollar bill. I was floored! Nor would he tell me who the individual donors were.

When I got to my car I placed my Bible on the passenger seat beside me and accidentally flipped back the front cover and there was another twenty dollar bill. Before I drove away I bowed my head, "Thank You, Lord, for the rich blessings of this day."

Oh, and the reason for earlier deciding not to attend that particular meeting? Five dollars was all the money I possessed. It had to last me and my wife until our pension cheques arrived two weeks later. Impossible? With that $40.00 added to my $5.00 our household managed quite well until payday.

Our Lord was definitely in charge of the events of that day. Safety for me and fast passage through busy traffic; household money provided; the best Christian fellowship. Truly, the Lord helped.

Joy Prayer

Nancy F. Revie

O God I want you near me.
O God I need you here.
Help me to feel your presence.
Make my mind crystal clear.

I sit at your feet of mercy.
I see your throne of grace.
Your strength makes me grow stronger.
Help me to see your face.

I'm silent in your presence.
My heart is filled with joy.
You are my loving Saviour.
Your praise my tongue employs.

Take these hands and use them.
Take these lips to speak.
You are all I long for.
You, my loving God I seek.

Wrap your arms around me.
I am here for you to hold.
Never let me leave you.
With your strength, I will be bold.

I will follow where you lead me.
I can feel you at my side.
You are my Master and my Saviour.
Jesus, Lord, you are my guide.

I drink in your loving kindness.
I look forward to that day.
When I'll be singing with the angels.
God, hear me as I pray.

Nancy F. Revie is a Guelph-based motivational speaker and writer. She is a women's leader in outreach programs; Bible studies and church activities, and is a writer, actor, producer, director and coordinator of drama and music in both church and community life. Nancy can be reached by email at nancy_revie@yahoo.ca

Prepare for Mission Awareness Sunday

Mission Awareness Sunday (MAS) is more than just one day. By preparing your congregation for April 24, 2005, Presbyterians become more aware of mission personnel, work and partnerships.

Several Weeks before MAS

- read mission stories from *Glad Tidings*, the *Record*, Stories of Mission, Mission Capsules, Something Extra, Mission Profiles or PWS&D Appeals
- make mission stories available to your WMS group and congregation, e.g. display them on a bulletin board, create a bulletin insert with a story on it (reprint only with permission from publication) or use bulletin inserts provided by WMS or *Presbyterians Sharing…* (remember past years inserts still have great information)
- talk about how prayers and financial gifts help strengthen others' faith around the world in your WMS groups or with members of your congregation
- highlight people in your community or congregation who are involved in local mission during a mission minute or through your church publication
- host a Mission Bible Study night for your whole congregation

The week prior

- promote MAS with posters, displays, write-ups, letters and discussion
- pray for all the mission workers overseas and in Canada
- pray for those in your community and congregation who make a difference by supporting and working in mission

Take Time to Educate!

Involve the Youth and Children

- Have the children and youth create stickers, tags or buttons that say Mission Awareness Sunday. Discuss what mission work involves locally and internationally. The children and youth can wear the stickers, tags or buttons around the church to remind others that April 24, 2005 is Mission Awareness Sunday.
- Use a couple of sessions of mission studies or mission Bible studies during Sunday school or during an evening event for three consecutive weeks prior to MAS.
- Write two letters (or drawings): one to an overseas missionary after reading about them in a profile and another to someone in your congregation or community who is involved in local mission.

Be Creative!

How can a local WMS group prepare themselves for MAS when they concentrate on mission at every meeting?

- Go back to the basics. Explore what mission is and why members in your group are so passionate about mission.
- Plan a group mission excursion. As a group, volunteer at a local mission that you support; go out to a community food bank, children's breakfast program, after school programs, community drop-ins, seniors homes, single mothers, Meals-On-Wheels, Out of the Cold programs, etc.
- Try something different. Provide time during a meeting for silent reflection, a writing exercise, an art project, discussion, etc. that is geared around a Bible verse from the MAS service.

It is difficult to prepare mentally and spiritually for MAS when WMS members have to organize speakers, decorate, coordinate luncheons, promote or take part in the Sunday service. Remember to take time for your own education and development.

Alexis Dimson

Readers Write

Letter to the Editor:

I am writing this letter to help clarify some confusion that may exist about the gifts being collected for the School Project in Jobat, India.

On my return from the Bhil field a year ago I shared with the WMS the present situation at the Jobat Christian School. This school has five classrooms for eight classes, which means that three of the classes use the steps of the school and the verandahs. I also learned that when funds were limited that the boys were given preference for education. Extra funding would make it possible for all children to have the opportunity of education. We know that education is important in improving the lifestyle of the people in the developing world. Also, the teachers' salaries need to be upgraded as they only received about 10% of what the government school teachers received.

The WMS recommended that each WMS group give $35.00 per year for each of the two years they are studying the Bhil people. This would be an over and above gift.

This is to clarify that the $70.00 (35x2) will not only be used for scholarships but will make it possible to build three new classrooms and upgrade the teachers' salaries.

A one page handout is being prepared and will be available in the new year.

Joanne Instance, Past President

Tea with the Famous Five

Druse Bryan

Margaret MacNaughton, Margaret Henderson, Lois Klem and Druse Bryan

It isn't every day that you get the chance to enjoy a tea party with such distinguished women. Recently I had the opportunity to have a cup of tea with the women whose names and deeds should be celebrated by every woman in Canada; namely, Nellie McClung, Louise McKinney, Irene Parlby, Emily Murphy and Henrietta Muir Edwards. These women, more than 70 years ago, helped pave the way for a more just and equitable society in Canada.

Up until 1929, under British Common Law, women were "persons in matters of pains and penalties but not persons in matters of rights and privileges." Emily Murphy, the first woman magistrate in Alberta, when her rulings in court were repeatedly challenged by male defence lawyers, decided to take the matter to the Alberta Supreme Court. This court ruled "that there was no legal disqualification for the holding of public office on the basis of sex." However, on a federal level the government would not appoint a woman to the Senate on the grounds that, according to the British North American Act, women were not "persons." In 1927 Emily Murphy, with these four other determined women, appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada. In April 1928 their appeal was denied. Not giving up in despair, they decided to pursue yet another recourse – they referred their petition, with the full approval of Canadian Prime Minister McKenzie King, to what was then Canada's highest court of appeal, the Privy Council of Britain. On October 18, 1929 the Privy Council ruled that women were indeed persons and were eligible to become members of the Senate of Canada!

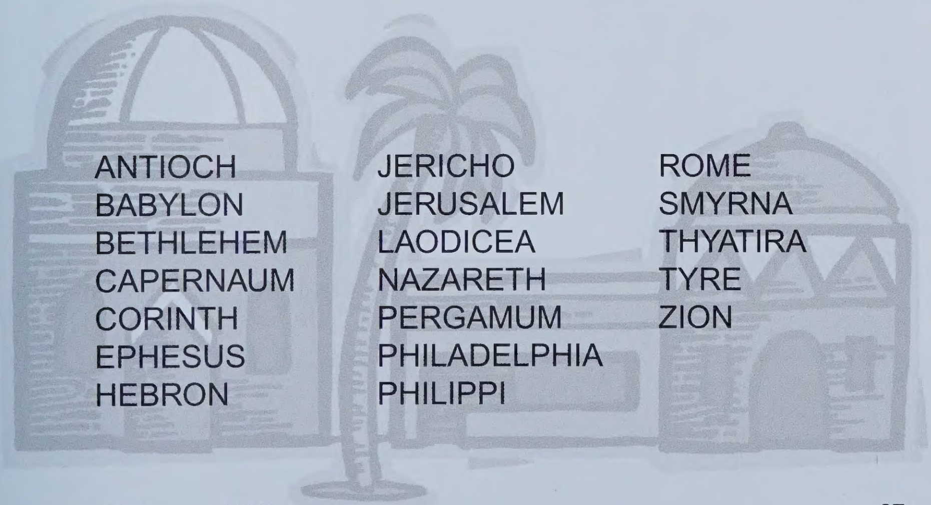
Seventy years later a statuary grouping of the Famous Five was unveiled on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Five larger-than-life statues of the women form a circle with two of the

continued on page 29

Cities of the Bible

by Jim Phillips

S	K	R	D	L	A	O	D	I	C	E	A
A	N	O	L	Y	B	A	B	A	T	I	N
M	U	A	N	R	E	P	A	C	H	P	T
E	E	D	Z	I	O	N	O	P	Y	E	I
H	P	L	N	A	B	C	L	X	A	R	O
E	H	F	A	W	R	E	H	H	T	G	C
L	E	M	C	S	D	E	G	F	I	A	H
H	S	P	B	A	U	B	T	Y	R	M	F
T	U	L	L	E	I	R	C	H	A	U	H
E	S	I	V	T	Y	R	E	R	O	M	E
B	H	T	N	I	R	O	C	J	Z	G	B
P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I	M	E	J	R
U	T	K	A	J	J	E	R	I	C	H	O
S	A	R	I	S	M	Y	R	N	A	L	N



ANTIOCH
BABYLON
BETHLEHEM
CAPERNAUM
CORINTH
EPHESUS
HEBRON
JERICHO
JERUSALEM
LAODICEA
NAZARETH
PERGAMUM
PHILADELPHIA
PHILIPPI
ROME
SMYRNA
THYATIRA
TYRE
ZION

News

In less than a month the Caribbean was hit hard by Hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan and Tropical Storm Jeanne. PWS&D immediately issued an appeal to support the work of church partners through Action by Churches Together (ACT). ACT members in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada and Cuba quickly began to mobilize resources to respond – both in the immediate and long-term.

In Haiti, buckets of food worth US$35, designed to support a family of five for a week, have been distributed through local churches in Gonaives, the hardest hit city. Each bucket contains rice, beans, vegetable oil, water, tomato paste, spaghetti, milk powder and some hygiene items. Two water purification units were sent along with a water sanitation engineer to assist the communities in the installation of the units and to provide training. A container of medical equipment was also sent to assist in the care for the injured and sick. ACT members plan to continue to provide essential food and medicine, restore water and sanitation, help clear debris, rebuild schools and help families recover agriculture, livestock and other income generating activities.

In Grenada, ACT members are working on a "cash for work" program to help clear debris and provide financial support for families in need. Materials are also being provided to help families repair rural dwellings. Chickens will be distributed to complement seed and tool programs being implemented by other agencies. Focus is also being put on supporting children and youth, as the hurricane hit when students were about to commence the new academic year. Temporary structures will be built to provide immediate schooling for children aged 5-11 years.

In Jamaica, ACT members are distributing food; providing shelter and mattresses; and water and sanitation programs as immediate response, and supporting agriculture and income generating activities to help rebuild for the long term.

In Cuba, ACT members are supporting the most vulnerable people affected by the hurricanes such as female headed families, children, the elderly, the poor, the chronically sick and handicapped persons. Relief efforts are focused on the distribution of basic household items (clothes, shoes, bedspreads, towels, sheets, and hygiene items) and the distribution of housing reconstruction materials (doors, windows, roofing, cement, aluminum tiles and sanitary units).

photo on opposite page: Remnants of The Presbyterian Church in Grenada after Hurricane Ivan. Photo provided by Marjorie Ross.

PWS&D continues to appeal for funds to help these partners rebuild after the devastation left in the wake of the Hurricanes. Donations may be sent to PWS&D 50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7. Credit card donations may be made by calling 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301.

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Tea with the Famous Five

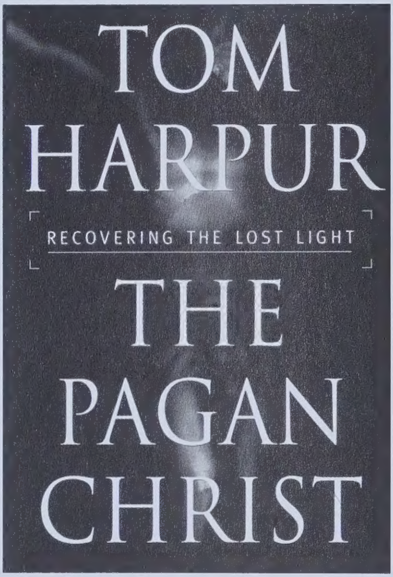
women sitting at a table enjoying a cup of tea. This summer, with three other friends, Margaret MacNaughton, Margaret Henderson and Lois Klempa, I travelled to Ottawa, complete with our handsome bone china teacups and saucers, sugar and creamer set, teapot, and some chocolate biscuits, we enjoyed our tea party with these five feisty women. Actually the unexpected side effect was that we attracted quite a lot of attention from other tourists and we were able to tell them the real story behind the statues. Particularly gratifying was the interest shown by many of the younger females among the tourists, including some who had come from countries other than our own.

So each year on October 18th, raise your cups in a toast to these five determined women who persevered and won this right for all of us – a right which we, and our daughters and granddaughters, now take for granted.

Reviews

***The Pagan Christ: Recovering the Lost Light* by Tom Harpur, Thomas Allen Publishers $36.50**

This time Tom Harpur may have gone too far for traditional mainline Christians. He might however just attract those in the secular world on the fringes of belief in Christ to take a second look at religion. Harpur's Christ transcends the Christianity we know; in fact according to Harpur's extensive research, the basic tenets adopted by the early Church had their roots in early Egyptian and other mythology.



Harpur bases most of his insights on the earlier research of others, especially by Dr. Alvin Boyd Kuhn and Kuhn's major sources which include Egyptologist Gerald Massey; and the esteemed Dr. Northrup Frye, University of Toronto professor; as well as decades of personal study and research. In the late 60s when Harpur himself was teaching at the Toronto School of Theology he had difficulty with Frye's assumption that the Bible "was not a document concerned with history but a vast collection of sublime myths and metaphors."

The intellectual and visionary Frye was extremely popular among students to whom he preached that "every syllable of the Gospels was written in myth." It was 15 years before Harpur began to understand what Frye was saying and even more recently in the months of research into this book that Harpur reached the dramatic conclusions in this book.

Harpur contends that early on, in the third and fourth centuries C.E. (Common Era), the Christian Church shifted from the spiritual wisdom it had previously inherited from ancient sources. A more popular recounting of "historical events" presented the historical Christ as one who was incarnated as the Son of God rather than the earlier accepted view of a Christ-like Saviour accepted by a pagan world as truth. This "Christ," it was believed, dwelt in each individual.

Harpur defines pagan according to its interpretation by the emerging Church as denoting those who were not orthodox Christians. These "pagans" held views of the Christ within that the Church decried. "Myth," Harpur explained in an interview after the book hit best-seller lists "is something that enshrines a truth that is essential to understanding the human condition." As Joseph Campbell has said, "Myth is what never was, yet always is."

What Harpur states is the truth that he has now come to accept includes believing that the miracles of Christ never actually occurred, nor did his birth, ministry and death happen as recounted in the New Testament. Everything from the star in the East to Jesus' walking on water; everything Jesus said or did, originated thousands of years before.

Ultimately Harpur questions even the historicity of Jesus of Nazareth, saying that if indeed such a man existed at that time, it was not the Christ we have been brought up to believe in – thus defeating any arguments supporting the work of historians like the Jewish Josephus or Roman Tacitus of the first and second centuries, to name only a couple. The Gospel life of Jesus, he says, had already been written in substance, at least 5,000 years before he came.

Harpur writes not in a vacuum of ignorance but out of a lifetime of study, research and questioning. An Anglican priest who was never content to remain complacent with what he had learned and preached, Harpur dismissed his own early questions as nonsense. He also dismissed other thinkers who spoke out including Sigmund Freud whose dictum was that the Bible was a "total plagiarism" of the Sumerian and Egyptian mythologies.

Harpur insists that his wrestling with newly discovered materials has only served to deepen his faith and spiritual life and to bring fresh, new meaning to Bible stories. For him there is a renewed significance in the rituals of Easter and Christmas and the Christian symbols of the cross and the Eucharist. He embraces the powerful meaning behind the expression "take up your cross" as accepting "the discipline and ambiguity and

Winter Book Competition

Five lucky readers will win a copy of Cathy Cummings Chisholm's poetic and prayerful book, *Landscapes of the Heart*, published by Bridge Resources (retail value of $22.95). To win a copy, readers should answer the following question:

What amazing book was written by Rosemary Doran and Lois Klempa?

Correct answers should be submitted on a postcard to *Glad Tidings* Book Competition, Women's Missionary Society,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada,
50 Wynford Dr.,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7,
by March 1, 2005 when the winners will be drawn at random.

The names of the winners of this competition will be published in the May/June issue of *Glad Tidings.*

Good luck!

suffering involved in being a fully aware human being."

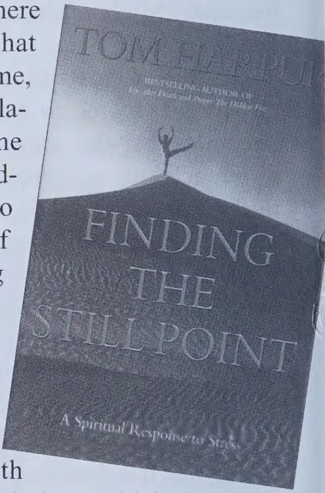
Harpur examines exact parallels between Egyptian mythology and Gospel writings. Even the story of Lazarus is not truth he says but a recurring deeply archetypal and widely used symbol of God's power to resurrect the dead. Harpur quotes the classic work *Egyptian Religion* of Sir Wallis Budge who said that no matter how far back researchers go, there is no time "that there did not exist a belief in the resurrection, for everywhere it is assumed that Osiris rose from the dead." The Egyptians believed in the "anthropomorphic divinity, or Christ ideal," of Osiris and his son Horus, neither of whom were ever considered historical.

Tom Harpur has always been as much of a journalist as a theologian and sees his vocation as making complex issues intelligible to the ordinary, intelligent layperson. If we believe that as Jesus said "the kingdom of God is within" we have a moral obligation to search for our own truth, or as Harpur puts it "the lost light." An open mind is always at the root of Harpur's writing and I believe we must keep our own hearts open to the word of God as it comes to each of us, not as a "fait accompli" but as something transforming and reforming. This is a must read for theologians and theological students as well as true seekers.

L. June Stevenson

***Finding the Still Point: A Spiritual Response to Stress* by Tom Harpur, Northstone Publishing $31.50**

This book, written before *The Pagan Christ* and published in 2002, falls more in the category of a self-help book. There was little that was new to me, from an explanation of the stress of modern living to methods of combating that stress. Meditation, yoga, mindfulness, breathing, the labyrinth are all old solutions which Harpur presents within the context of a spiritual approach to coping with stress - the idea of a healthy body, mind and spirit necessary to create a whole person.



This is not "new age" stuff rather an affirmation that the wisdom of the centuries has been revived in ways the average person can understand and make use of. There were some interesting comparisons in the book; for example, the "yoke" Christ referred to actually means yoga. Like others, Harpur once spurned activities such as yoga, Qi Gong and Tai Chi but has come to regard them as valuable exercises for helping him focus, develop flexibility and agility, as well as reducing stress.

I was surprised to discover that Mother Teresa suffered with depression all her adult life. Harpur affirms the value of medicine and medical attention in helping us care for ourselves, saying that had Mother Teresa received proper care she would not have suffered so severely. Harpur relates his experience in meeting with the Dalai Lama who showed Harpur how he "walked the talk," living what he preached in an easy, open, friendly and humble manner.

The book is organized into four sections – The Contemporary Scene, The Spiritual Response, Sources and Mantras, and The God Within. What Harpur has to say is important but I feel he spends too much time on such things as mantras – it would be enough to list a few instead of overemphasizing how to use them – and quoting scripture that supports his point of view – that Jesus, Paul and others taught how to live an abundant life as whole persons.

I liked the book, as I always appreciate what Harpur has to say, but it is definitely written for the less informed seeker and possibly less for the Christian than for the non-Christian who will certainly find it helpful and enlightening.

L. June Stevenson

***A Woman's Book of Days 2* by Donna Sinclair, Northstone Publishing $18.95**

Donna Sinclair has been a journalist for over 30 years. The list of this award winner's published books is impressive. The first *A Woman's Book of Days* was so well received that a second is now available. This is a hand-sized book that will renew and inspire you each and every day of the year with reflections on life and living. Her thoughts are women's thoughts – on politics, raising children, faith, taxes and all that goes into being a woman in today's world.

A Woman's Book is for women – their sisters, their daughters, mothers and friends. The first book was bought in bulk by a woman surgeon who gave it out at a conference. The year's selections are not written in a set pattern like other daily devotional booklets with scripture, 300 words or so and a prayer, but in a friendly easy style and expressed in ways to which women connect. Sometimes the thought for the day is a poem, a short story or a prayer. Buy one for yourself and for the other significant women in your life. At least buy an extra copy, for you will want to keep your own as much as you will want to share Sinclair's wisdom and insight with others.

L. June Stevenson

PCC THE Book Room

The Book Room
50 Wynford Drive,
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

God Will Provide

Has anyone in your church ever said: "There are so few of us!" or "We are all getting older!" or "There is not enough money!"? If so, let us tell you one last story.

Once upon a time, not very long ago, in a small country far away, there lived a pastor named Felix who wanted desperately to do something for the many poor and needy people he saw all around him in his city. Although his congregation was not exactly wealthy by Canadian standards, nor particularly numerous, still they had almost $600 in the bank, to be used, supposedly, for the glory of God. But when Pastor Felix suggested to the deacons that some of the money be used to help a poor widow fix her roof, the deacons told him that the money was not for such worldly purposes; it was to be used only for the church.

After fourteen years of ministering to his flock (and refusing any sort of stipend) such hardness of heart made Felix feel very sad and discouraged indeed.

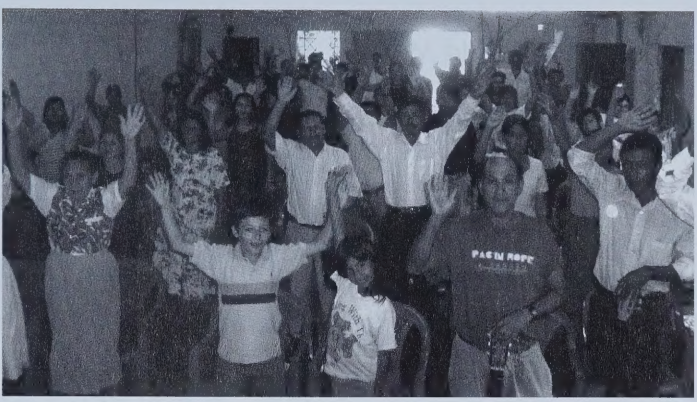
So it was that one day not long after, with much earnest prayer, Felix and his family decided to resign from their congregation, and start a new mission in the hopes that a new field for the Lord would prove more fertile. In September 2000, in a borrowed house, a rag-tag group of Christians gathered with Felix to worship God and to begin a journey of faith that would lead them to encounters, adventures, struggles, and celebrations far beyond anything they could have imagined.

In those days, the suffering of God's children in that country was much increased by a series of earthquakes. The miserable mud houses in which many people lived could not withstand the trembling earth. Over a quarter of a million families were left homeless. Their misery was left exposed for the whole world to see.

Faced with the now greatly increased needs all around him, Pastor Felix and his little flock decided they had to do something to help, but since they were few, some were old, and all were poor, what could they possibly do?

The first thing they did was to help distribute emergency supplies sent out from the Baptist Federation for earthquake victims. Meanwhile, the women of the church began meeting together in study and in prayer. Encouraged by Felix's preaching, each one would bring a handful of beans or rice to their meetings so that later in the week some of the elderly neighbours would have a few meals.

On another occasion, a bus accident killed a number of adults and left several families in a nearby town with no source of income. Felix and his people raised a special offering of food and clothing to help out.



Greetings to the PCC from Compassionate God Baptist Church, Ahuachapan

Now it should be noted at this point that everyone in the little congregation is poor. No-one earns more than one fifth of the poverty line. Over half of the folk are illiterate. Of the rest, the great majority have no more than a grade four education. In total, the congregation numbered about 40 souls.

With the encouragement of the Federation missionaries, the mission began to organize itself formally. The name "Compassionate God" Baptist Church was chosen. It reflected Felix's vision and the growing sense of mission in the small church. Within weeks of choosing its name, the first of ten building groups from the PCC came to accompany a building project that would eventually see 40 houses provided for earthquake victims. Shortly after that, the Church began a project to bring primary health care to 3,000 families.

As each group of builders came and went, Felix's message of compassion was reinforced. The church was particularly touched to see women and men, who could have vacationed in much greater luxury, sweating beside them in the hot sun. Some Canadians who could not come to help personally sent what they could to help purchase the building materials. A group of poor indigenous people in Winnipeg sent over $300.

Finally, word came that the last of the funds for housing had been received. The little congregation could see that there were still many families without proper housing. What could they do??

Pastor Felix told the missionaries that he was sure his church could provide bricks for another house. The missionaries were doubtful; besides, where would the rest of the materials needed for a house, the re-bar, the roofing, the doors, the windows, the floor, and the cement come from? Felix answered, "We will get the bricks. The rest, God will provide."

Each brick cost 15¢, a small sum, but from an income where every penny counts, it seemed a great deal to ask. Some people brought their coins.

Others came carrying a brick or two. Eighty year old Maria, a widow and quite poor, walked two kilometres every week to church carrying her brick. Little by little, the number of bricks grew.

Meanwhile, far away to the north, a group from the Atlantic Synod was preparing to go to El Salvador to help build something. The housing project was officially over, but God had another plan. The Maritime group had raised enough money for re-bar, doors, windows, roofing and floor bricks. In El Salvador, the more skeptical of the two missionaries coughed up the necessary bags of cement, since he had lost a wager with Felix about whether or not the people could provide the bricks.

Finally, after six months of constant struggle, the day came to use the bricks to build. The deacons of Compassionate God Church met to review the candidates and to select from a long list the family who would live in such a hallowed house. At the top of the list were 80 year old Maria and her daughter Deysi (who suffers from an emotional disorder). Their adobe house was in immanent danger of collapsing. Their hopes of being able to rebuild themselves were nil. The president of the deacons proposed that Maria and Deysi receive the house. All agreed. And God smiled.

Treasurer Irma (L) with house recipients Maria and Deysi

Not many days after Maria and Deysi were settled in their new home, the missionaries were finishing their term. Felix told us that the collecting of bricks continues, not only in Compassionate God Church but also in their small mission in El Refugio. They hope to gather enough for two more houses.

We cautioned Felix, "We will not be here to help you. So where will you get the cement, the re-bar, the doors, the windows, the roofing and the floor bricks?" And he answered serenely, "God will provide."

Love to all in the name of Jesus,
Jim & Brenda Patterson

Thank You

I would like to thank all those who have sent cards with love and prayers after the death of my husband, John Robertson. I never realized how large my Christian family was until the mail began to arrive. Thank you so much. Your love enfolds and carries me through these days.

Sincerely,
Rev. Margaret Robertson

In Memoriam

Clare Ellis

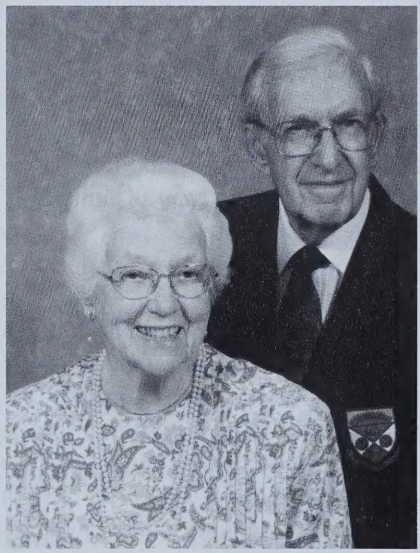
Clare Ellis died peacefully on October 8, 2004 in her 94th year in Owen Sound, Ontario. Clare was active in all levels of the WMS including Barrie Presbyterial and the Toronto & Kingston Synodical. In 1981 she came on the Council Executive where she served as Vice-President until 1984; in 1984 she became President until May 1986.

While vice-president, Clare and her husband Ken along with Eileen Parish, president of the WMS (WD), Edna Cameron, president of the WMS (ED), Lois Powrie, and Helen Tetley were guests to the 60th Jubilee of the Women's Missionary Association of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan that was held in Tam-Kang Middle School in Tamsui, Taiwan from August 3-5, 1982. They began their trip in Japan where they visited the Korean Christian Church in Japan, and then they went on to Taiwan for the celebration. After that they went to Hong Kong for a few days as tourists and then the group flew to Korea and visited the churches in Seoul.

With all that travelling, Clare and Ken amazed everyone by carrying all their travel clothes, etc. in two small suitcases that fit under the seats of the aircraft – one apiece. While the rest of the group struggled to get their luggage, Clare and Ken patiently stood by.

During Clare's term of office as President, the WMS purpose was reworded, she visited the western Synodicals, and she also went to Guyana in 1985 along with other church dignitaries. In addition, Clare wrote several articles for the *Glad Tidings* during this time. In one article Clare wrote: "As President of the WMS (WD), I trust and pray to the Source of All Help that I may be able to bring others to know the joy of service in the WMS." The WMS now says of Clare: "Well done faithful servant."

Clare is survived by her daughter Jay and her husband Neil Schlotzhauer of Woodstock, two grandchildren Ellisa and Jaymie, her sister Lenore and many nieces and nephews.



Clare and Ken Ellis

In the Society

Synodical

The Synodical of **Quebec & Eastern Ontario** met for their fall rally on October 19th at St Paul's Church, Ottawa. It was a beautiful day – both inside and outside the church. Margaret Reynolds, the president, welcomed everyone and Joan Sampson gave warm greetings from St. Paul's. The opening devotion, taken from the Iona Community publication *Dandelions & Thistles* was led by members of the Montreal Presbyterial, Genevieve Holding and Jean MacDonald. Presbyterial highlights were given as well as a particularly interesting account by Sheila Paterson, a member of WMS Council, of the Joint Mission Consultation held recently at Church Offices with ten women from the Women's Association of the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ). Catherine Blatch presented a lively book report and welcomed everyone to browse and buy.

The Bible study was led by Christine Ball, our Area Education Consultant, based on the telling in Mark 5 of the woman with the flow of blood. The discussion that followed outlined the importance given to the act of touching in this scripture. The members were then invited to visit the various centres that Christine had set up: drama / art / music / prayer chain / writing letters to missionaries.

A delicious lunch was followed by a presentation by the Rev. Jim and Brenda Patterson, recently returned from five years in El Salvador. Brenda spoke of her work there among the women who still suffer gender discrimination, violence, incest in this patriarchal society. Jim spoke of the success of his ministry among men in the prisons, as well as the educational seminars that he provided. Both thanked the WMS for the prayerful support and for the financial support-speaking especially of the funds sent by the WMS to cover costs associated with the production of hymn books with relevant words and lyrics, which the people could claim as their own.

Closing worship took the form of a collage of the various original products from the study centres finishing with a signed benediction using American Sign Language.

Presbyterial

Bruce-Grey Presbyterial held their 90th anniversary and fall rally at St. Paul's in Wiarton in September. Seventy members from Meaford to Kincardine registered.

Alice Poland of Southampton chaired the event. Reverend David Leggatt welcomed us and led an inspiring worship service from Isaiah 58:6-14 which underlined the conference theme *Guiding Steps for the Future.*

There were five past presidents honoured with the presentation of corsages. Each highlighted amusing incidents from their tenure of office.

The guest speaker was Pauline Brown from Jobat India. She has a quiet, serene demeanor but when deeply moved she becomes a passionate speaker. Pauline told the story of a prison visitation at Easter following the Hindu extremist attacks on some Bhil churches and homes. Pauline and Bhil elders were led into a room filled with people – all the prisoners of the jail! On their departure the Hindu head jailer implored that they visit his handicapped son and pray with him.

Left to right: Alice Poland, Kay Remus, Eleanor Crabtree, Pauline Brown, Ethel Miller, Pat Carpenter, and Eleanor Thompson

On view was the collection of knitted pneumonia vests, caps and baby blankets; Owen Sound WMS will be a collection point to receive further contributions. Pauline is including baby blankets in her luggage on her return to India.

Huron-Perth WMS Presbyterial Rally

Over sixty members of Huron-Perth WMS met in St. Marys Church to hear Pauline Brown, a missionary in the Bhil Field in India. India is one-third the size of Canada and has over one billion people of whom 2 ½% are Christian. Huron-Perth has sent $420 to assist Bhil children to go to school.

Pauline showed a beautiful wall hanging that was made and sent to the Presbyterian Church in Canada by the Christian men who are currently imprisoned. Pauline was thanked by Bernice Richards, Stratford.

The second vice-president, Janet Gibson, St. Marys presided for the day's program. Greetings from St. Marys Kirk session were brought by Doris Webb.

The morning program included a demonstration of simple creative flower designs by Janice McIver of Avonbank. She showed many arrangements that can be made with very few flowers.

Lois Horne, North Easthope, promoted several books that were available at her book display.

Area Education Consultant, Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, recommended a new study, *Consider it all Joy*, to groups that have finished their study on the Bhils. She also led a Bible study on James 1:5-8. She was thanked by Nancy Schneider, Listowel.

The afternoon program began with hymn #480, "In Christ there is no east or west." The St. Marys Graceful

Tones quartet played four hand bell numbers. They were thanked by Lorna Stewart, Exeter. The devotions were given by Atwood North members, Ina McMillan and Jan MacInnis. The roll call was answered by giving one example of your group's mission afar, and one of your mission nearby.

The meeting closed with a prayer by Sally Scott, Monkton.

Saturday, September 25th was a lovely fall morning when St. Andrew's Church, Tweed, hosted the fall rally of the WMS **Kingston** Presbyterial. Forty-seven women representing 12 churches enjoyed the day that began with muffins and tea/coffee. It was an added pleasure to have Tweed's newly inducted minister, Rev. Teresa Charlton present to welcome everyone and assist in the opening worship service.

Following a brief business meeting conducted by President Jean Brinkos, we welcomed our speaker for the morning, Joy Randall. What a wealth of information Joy brought us about the hospitals and churches from her years in Taiwan and India. Joy has witnessed many changes and urged us to keep praying for the medical, political and religious situations in Taiwan.

After our lunch, which was served by the women of St. Andrew's, we re-convened for the afternoon session. A year ago, a CGIT group (two girls) was formed at St. Andrew's, Tweed; this group now boasts a membership of 13 girls. It was decided to donate $200 from the day's offering to the CGIT group to assist with their expenses.

A quartet from the host church sang a few numbers for us and the newly formed hand-bell choir also performed. A dialogue based on this year's mission material was then presented by Doreen Dath and Marlene Cribar.

The closing worship service was conducted by the women of St. Peter's Church, Madoc.

London Presbyterial Mission Day was held at Burns-Mosa, Kilmartin September 29. The theme of the meeting was *Mission on Our Doorstep*. President Ida Human opened with prayer and Rev. Linda Moffatt welcomed everyone on behalf of Burns-Mosa.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs led the Bible study, "Megwetch (Thank You), A Prayer." The study was provided by Rev. Stewart Folster of the Saskatchewan Native Circle Ministry. The accompanying scripture was James 1:5-8.

Pauline Lindsay reported on Pauline Brown's presentation given at Brantford. Marion Weldon gave a report on the Kintail quilt auction and showed new books from the book room.

A very informative presentation on Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, was given by representative Diane Irving.

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Camp Christopher, Saskatchewan September 10-12, 2004

It was the 20th anniversary of Women's Camp on September 10-12, and the theme for the weekend was *Joy "Filled" Living*. We, Arvilla Carleton and Flo Atkinson, started the weekend with a beautiful drive north arriving at the camp at 3:30 p.m. We registered, and then chose our room which was warm and cozy. The weather had turned very cold and wet and we were glad to be in the main building.

There is always a list posted where you can choose the duties that you would like to perform at the camp. Arvilla and I took on the breakfast preparation for Saturday morning. No help was needed for Friday night supper as it is traditionally potluck and everyone pitches in.

The group leader for the camp activities was Donna Brown from Saskatoon. The weekend programs began Friday evening with a wonderful talk, given by Marg Hyndman from Qu'Appelle, that covered the past twenty years of Women's Camp; filled with many funny stories of events in the dorms and on the beach. What fun! Next, a talk was given by Jean Ramsay on Women's Camp and how it originated as a Synodical Women's Camp in 1984 organized by the late Margaret Atkinson. Irene Soderlund was then honoured for her twenty years dedication to the camp. Then singing, conducted by Rev. Amanda Currie, was held around the fire place; it was too cold to go outside for a campfire by the lake.

The next morning Arvilla and I were up early as we were on breakfast duty. We had a fun time meeting and talking with the campers. Arvilla made the porridge which was a big hit with everyone.

Morning worship was held at 9:30 with much singing. Rev. Catherine Dorcas then gave several meaningful presentations on different life experiences.

Saturday afternoon was free time for crafts, nature walks, resting, and preparation for the evening activities.

Following a big supper, the evening was filled with singing, a fashion show, skits and lots of laughter. The comedy skits and fashion show had us all laughing to tears. The evening ended with beautiful singing.

Sunday morning we were up early to enjoy a breakfast of feast proportions. Then all pitched in to clean up the camp before church service at 10:30 a.m.

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Muriel Stavert led the hymns accompanied by Margaret Burgess on the piano.

Sent out in Mission was the theme for the **Maitland** Presbyterial fall rally held on September 27 at Lucknow Church. A delicious chicken dinner prepared by members of Lucknow Church was enjoyed by seventy-six members. Agnes Bregman welcomed us and opened the meeting with prayer. Joanne Lennips, representative elder of Lucknow Church brought greetings from Grey-Bruce Presbyterial and Rev. Peggy Kinsman.

Gorrie WMS will be disbanding since the church will be closed. Joanne Lennips shared special music accompanied by Norma Raynard.

Marjorie Deyell of Belmore introduced the guest speaker Lorne Underwood, a local farmer commissioned by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to do a food study tour of Mozambique and Malawi. Lorne told us that the people are very grateful for the food given to them; the children wait patiently for their food. HIV/AIDS has been so devastating in these countries; many children have lost either a mother or father. The children know more about the disease than we as Canadians do. We were urged to continue our givings to the Foodgrains Bank and to pray for the people. Erlma Haldenby thanked Lorne for his interesting talk; the meeting was closed with prayer by Molesworth Afternoon.

The fall rally of the **Montreal** Presbyterial was held on October 2 at Maplewood Church, Chateauguay, Quebec.

President of the Presbyterial, Genevieve Holding welcomed us. Betty Jordan, president of Women of the Church gave greetings and also the history of the church.

The devotions were given by Rev. Hye-Sook Kam of the host church and her theme was on Martha and Mary keeping things in perspective.

After the business reports were given, Peggy Wegrich led us in an exercise break.

Our guest speaker was Anita Mack, Area Education Consultant speaking on education "Making a home for Faith." After a delicious lunch we had a hymn sing led by Betty Johnston with Edie Bobbitt at the piano. Anita Mack gave us a Thanksgiving craft to do. The courtesies were given by Dixie McBride and our closing hymn was "Rise up, O men of God." It was a very enjoyable day.

Women in Mission and *This is the Day* were the themes for the fall rally of **Sarnia** Presbyterial held at St. Andrew's, Strathroy. A lovely noon luncheon prepared by the women in their newly renovated kitchen was enjoyed by all; approximately 50 registered and each was given a cookbook from the host church. Donna Smedley of the Mary and Martha WMS host group welcomed everyone. Rev. Steve

Boose of St. Andrew's commended the WMS women for the missionary work they do and said grace.

Co-President Margaret McDonald opened the afternoon meeting with prayer. Two Thanksgiving hymns were sung with Cathy Boose at the piano. Margaret Smith introduced Margaret Vanderzweerde, the guest speaker, who gave us wonderful insight into the missionary work that she had done in the Bhil Field in India for 12 years. Her job was to access the needs of the people and to show the Canadian churches how they could become involved in mission with funds that could do the most good. A small amount of Canadian money could buy so much in needed supplies, which improved the quality of life of the Bhils. The Jobat Christian Hospital is the best in the Bhil Field as everyone can receive medical care. Margaret Vanderzweerde was able to bring hope and better the lives of the people by getting needed resources in the health clinics, hospitals, and schools. Pauline Brown is the only Canadian missionary still in the Bhil Field and keeps the Presbyterian Church in Canada informed of the happenings there.

Sophie Jackson thanked Margaret for her most enlightening talk and slide presentation. Joan Wagner, President of Mary and Martha WMS, had a very meaningful devotion entitled "This is the Day." She emphasized that we should enjoy the beauty of each season every day and thank God, the Creator, for all that we have been given to enjoy. The offering was dedicated and the meeting closed with prayer.

East Toronto Presbyterial held their annual study workshop on September 15th at Willowdale Church.

Rev. Lynda Reid, Education Consultant led the worship on the theme *The Challenges and Joy in Serving Christ* assisted by Doreen Dath, Anneli Rahnasto and Doris McAndless.

Lynda introduced the Bible study for 2005 *Consider it all Joy* by L. June Stevenson. The women were divided

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Camp Christopher

One of the women, Diana Sinden, wrote a poem about sunflowers and life, and Rev. Dorcas set it to music. It was great.

Marnie Deighton from Saskatoon made up a prayer about her stay at the camp and it was very beautiful and moving and many were crying. This was followed by a meaningful Communion service. It was then suggested by Helen Isbister that we have a native circle closing. All forty six of us formed a circle and each in their turn went around and gave a hug to each of the others. That was a wonderful experience.

into groups; each group looked at a different chapter in the study about missionaries and their work. The groups then reported highlights of what they had learned.

Audrey Nettleton extended thanks to Lynda Reid and everyone who helped present the Study and to the women of Willowdale for hosting the meeting.

Local

Mission project spearheaded by the WMS of First Church in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba

Since our congregation has an average Sunday attendance of only 55 worshippers, our WMS (consisting of 13 members) was very excited about the congregational response to our project: “Knitting for India.”

KNITTING for INDIA

First Presbyterian Church’s WMS group’s knitting for India project

Following three months of knitting, we were pleased to present Joanne Instance, our liaison for Jobat Hospital in India, 118 knitted items consisting of 59 pneumonia prevention vests, 58 baby caps and 1 blanket.

This successful project has inspired us to increase our mission involvement.

Scottlea WMS, St. Catharines celebrated Mission Awareness Sunday. The members invited Wilma Welch to speak at the service.

Left to right: Christine Cummings, Olive Vaughan Rev. M. Wehrmann, Wilma Welch, Nancy Wehrman and Anne Marie Henderson

Sunday school children of Scottlea Church, St. Catharines collected $279.68 to help health care workers in the Bhil Field, India. This was their mission project for 2004.

Some of Scottlea’s Sunday school, left to right: back row–Shannon Lindsay, Amanda Balyk, Jamie Kretz, Hailey Bye; front–Kennedy Roland, Rebecca Balyk, Sarah Roland, Lindsay Seabright, McKenzie Kretz, Bryce Seabright

Homemade Baby Items Donated

A group of Grenfell women volunteered their time and skills recently for a charitable project. The results of their handiwork will end up a half a world away in Africa and India.

The Trinity Presbyterian Women in Grenfell, who are affiliated with the Women's Missionary Society decided to take part in the missionary project. This is a knitting and crocheting project of patchwork blankets, toques, and vests. The women started producing the handmade items in March of this year.

These articles will be sent to the hospitals of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi and the Presbyterian Church of North India.

Twelve members of Trinity Presbyterian Women have completed 13 baby blankets, 64 toques, and two pairs of baby booties.

The women found the project enjoyable, meeting together three times over the course of the project. Ruth Scobie organized and hosted the project.

Annie Smith, who is 95 years old donated all the wool used to make the various items, and crocheted three blankets herself.

The group invites all Trinity women to join in their projects because they are enjoyable to participants.

The blankets were assembled at the church in Grenfell before making their way to Saskatoon on the first leg of their journey to Africa and India.

The Grenfell Sun
Tuesday, June 29, 2004
Grenfell, Saskatchewan

Marjorie [Sparling] Sandercock, Neepawa, Manitoba

Born November 1913; died October 2004. Marjorie joined the WMS when she married and moved to Wellwood, Manitoba where she was a Mission Band leader. The couple moved to Neepawa in 1940 and Marjorie joined the Heather Club affiliated with the WMS. She held every office in Heather Club more than once. At the time of her death she was the Treasurer. In the seventies she was a member of the Brandon Presbyterial as Secretary. She served as organist at Knox Neepawa for 60 years and was a WMS member for 68 years.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

Thank you to the *Glad Tidings* secretary/ contact people for returning the subscription lists in good time. Hopefully we will soon receive all the lists as it is costly to send renewals. If your group has disbanded, we still need to receive the information from the subscription lists.
A few changes have taken place since the last *News* was written.

- The large print version of the magazine will be printed by the same printer who does the regular sized edition instead of being merely photocopied.
  Thanks to the Christian Literature Fund for providing funds to help cover the costs for producing the large print issue of the *Glad Tidings*. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving *Glad Tidings* in large print, please let us know.
- At the last Council Executive meeting in October, it was approved that *Glad Tidings* subscriptions can now be paid by credit card. Hopefully the details of how to implement this will be sorted out sometime in January.
- Please contact the circulation manager regarding subscriptions for the magazine i.e. changes of address, etc. Sometimes changes have gone to the editor who then forwards the information to me, which can be delayed because Holly is not in the office everyday.

Forward in Faith

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Jacquie Allen as Treasurer of the WMS. Jacquie was appointed at the Council meeting last May. For health reasons during the summer months she submitted her resignation. It is our prayer that Jacquie will soon regain a good measure of health.

This column of Forward in Faith will appear in the January/February issue of *Glad Tidings* just as our books close for the year 2004. At this writing (early November) an amount of $403,460.08 has been received from our Presbyterials in 2004. This is just over 57 percent of receipts for 2003. We trust that all auxiliary Treasurers will submit the balance of their 2004 income by the first week of 2005.

As in the years 2001 and 2002, our undesignated legacies for 2004 have been high, amounting to $253,896.83. This means that former members of the WMS, who are no longer with us, continue to provide funds for the ongoing work of the Society.

We are grateful for the support of members of the WMS that enable us to assist in spreading the gospel in Canada and around the world.

Giollo Kelly, Treasurer

photo: Carl Hiebert, PWS&D

Above: Mothers in the maternity ward at Ekwendeni Hospital.

PWS&D is helping Ekwendeni Hospital work to prevent the transmission of HIV from mothers to their babies. The hospital is running counselling and voluntary testing at prenatal clinics and providing antiretrovirals to mothers who test positive, and to babies born to HIV-positive women, proven ways to reduce the spread of HIV.

Help build a World Without AIDS. Support PWS&D.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

IN REMEMBRANCE

Velma Branridge
St. Andrew's, Beeton, ON

Doris Foster
Eunice Norwood
Alfreda MacPherson
St. Andrew's, Bolsover, ON

Mabel Isabel Smart
Knox, Calgary, AB

Mrs. Freida Bradshaw
Clinton, ON
(formerly St. Andrew's, Beeton, ON)

Mrs. Donna Leitch
Glencoe, ON

Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Coulter
Knox, Goderich, ON

Mrs. Adeline Mackay
Knox, Milton, ON

Anne Beaulieu
Maisonneuve-St. Cuthbert's,
Montreal, QC

Marjorie [Sparling] Sandercock
Knox, Neepawa, MB

Clare Ellis
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Elwanda Shaw
Knox, Port Carling, ON

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First, Port Colborne, ON

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Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

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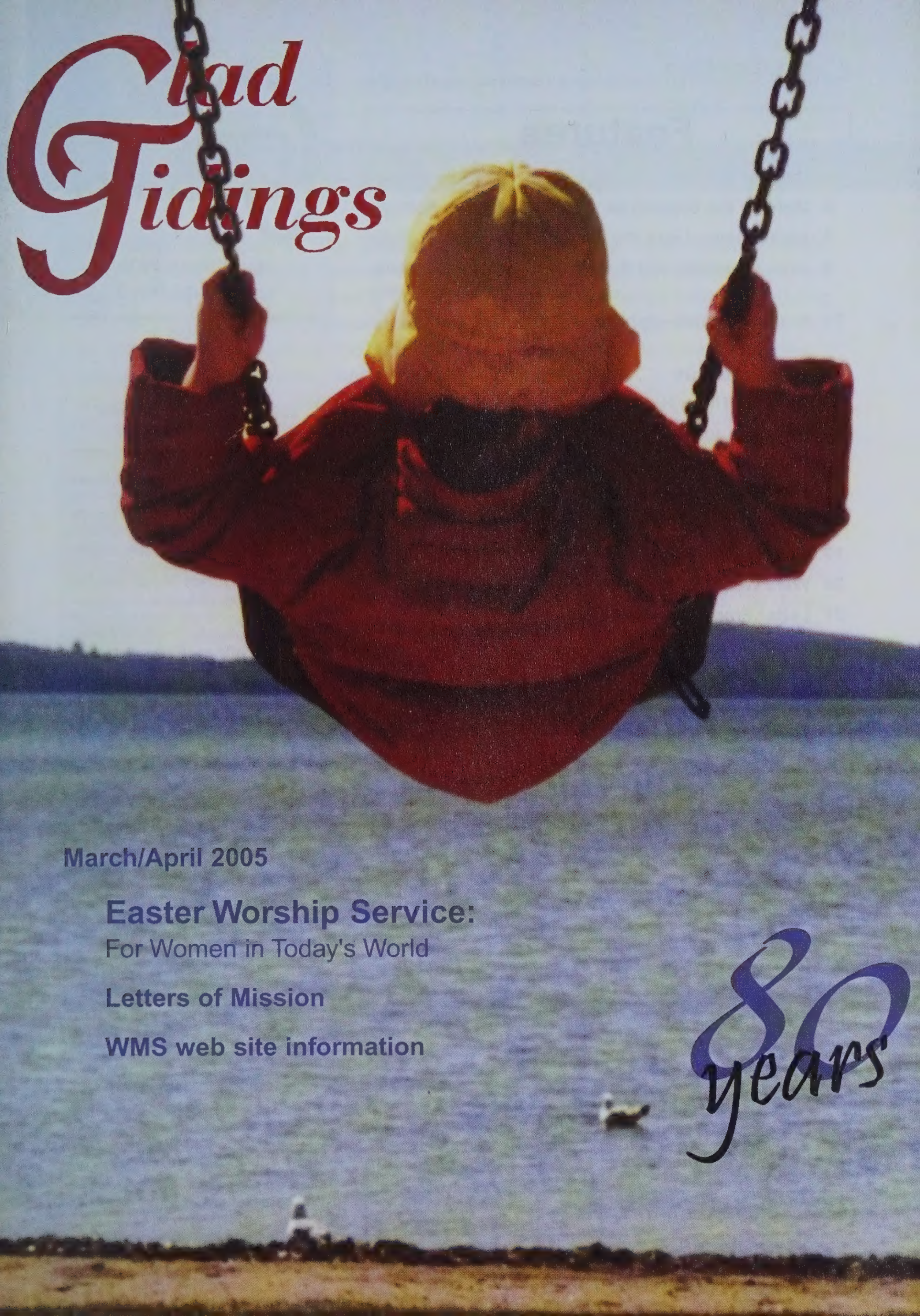

March/April 2005

Easter Worship Service:
For Women in Today's World

Letters of Mission

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80 years

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Glad Tidings

March/April 2005
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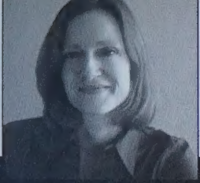
GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.



Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

How often have we felt like children before God's awesome power and might? On the cover, you see a child swinging trustingly before the vastness of still waters. In light of the recent world events, we know that these waters are not always calm. Sometimes, as in the South Asian tsunami tragedy, the waters can be extensively destructive.

The outpouring of generosity in support of those affected in South Asia is unprecedented. People are trying to make sense of why something like this happened—some question why God would let this happen. During a sermon following the catastrophe, our minister revealed that he could not comfort us with an explanation. Although we cannot understand the reason why terrible things happen, he reminded us that we must continue to do all that we can do—God works through us if we allow it.

When we treat others with loving kindness, we are doing what God would have us do. It is through service to others that we find purpose for our lives. When tragedy strikes it becomes obvious what needs to be done, but as Christians it is not only calamity that urges us to assist others in their suffering. Every day we are faced with opportunities to show love and respect for those around us. Being the first to smile and say hello when passing someone on the street; being generous with our time; being helpful by doing little things for others that they may not even notice—this is conscious living.

I think that it is safe to say that everyone carries around burdens that detract from their capacity to enjoy life fully. People suffer in endless ways; often their suffering goes completely undetected. We have the power to improve the lives of people around us by thinking before we speak, by choosing the higher road, by being kind. By choosing to live life in servitude to others, and to consciously face the world each day with love in our hearts is nothing short of beautiful.

While on earth, we will never understand why people must suffer, but we can make a difference one person at a time, one gesture at a time. As God's children it is what we are called to do.

Wishing you strength and courage,
Holly Wilson

Special thanks to: Lorna Teare, Jean Rankine, Eva Breeze and Rosina Daillie.

Also, Stephen Orticello and Candace Walmsley for their help with the Jan./Feb. 2005 photo shoot. Thank you!

Women of Fibre

by Nancy Bennett

She had the gnarled, bulbous joints formed from decades of mending. But despite arthritis setting in especially in the winter, Grandma's hands were always busy. If it wasn't a pair of britches to sew up or a child's doll arm to mend, it was an almost new dress to sew from scraps for a first piano recital. Grandma was the rags-to-riches lady. From her I learned first what it was to be a "woman of fibre."

She was the one who embroidered our birth certificates, recording the date, time, name and place in pink or blue accordingly, on a white piece of fabric cut from the edges of a sheet after it had been discarded for being thin in the middle. I loved to spend time at her sewing area, going through the discarded bits and pieces, and using my huge learner's needle and thick black thread to make creations of my own.

But it wasn't just in the hands that women of fibre were formed. Mother had a knack of matching colours—her pale blue eyes would scan the boxes of bits and squares and come up with a perfect combination. A bit of yellow left over from a summer dress would blossom into a daisy. Black fabric tied with white thread stars covered me at night.

The quilts would get much use; in the summer they would be aired, hung out on lines, and batted with tennis or badminton rackets. It was a great game for us kids. They were only washed when necessity called and sure enough, over time, they might slip and pucker and eventually shrink. It was then they would be passed onto a single child's bed, then onto a crib, and finally to end their days as cut-out layers for handmade slippers.

Mother cringed when I first wanted to join the family fold of sewers. Years in my company had taught her that patience was not one of my virtues. I scoffed at the idea of learning on "cheap" fabric, like the flour sacks washed and dried on the line (to be turned into underwear in harder times). Instead, I saved and begged and bought myself three yards of fine, thick blue velvet. Scarlett O'Hara would have turned down her curtain dress for this marvelous fabric. I had a pattern, and anxious to prove I could be a woman of fibre I went ahead and cut out my "creation." The pattern was large (sizes? They come in sizes?), and I was not. But as luck would have it that worked in my favor.

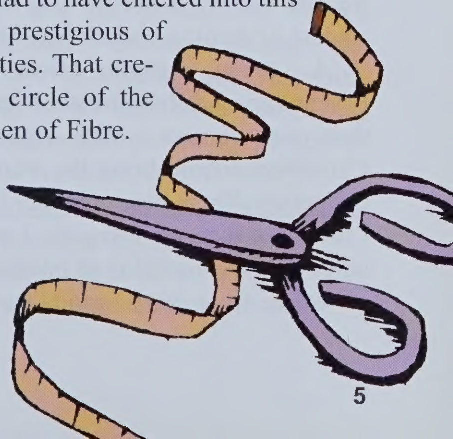
I did learn two new things that day. Something about shrinking fabric before you cut it and something called "cutting against the grain." My grandmother shook her head at my sad, but expensive learning experience. Mother set out her mammoth mending pile and ordered me to start at the bottom.

I learned "embroidery" from an aunt—the special stitches that mother said she "never had the patience for." French knots and cross stitch, still one of my favourite things. Years later, I learned quill embroidery from my sister, who had spent some time with First Nations women back east.

My grandmother has gone now, passed on to a place that I hope has the latest in sewing machines (often the old black Singer would cause her grief, breaking needles and causing her leg to be sore as she pumped the pedal), and yards and yards of the fanciest fabrics to play with.

Mother is still sewing, though like me the fabric in her sewing room seems to grow with each trip to town or the thrift shops to get fabric castoffs. Ideas are "sewn" in our minds and through our fingers, and new creations appear. Craft magazines and patterns seem to overflow the shelves and we spend a lot of time, fingering the folds of fabric, measuring the yards, and getting that crafter's urge to institute a new project. Friends join in, bringing with them swatches and leftover bits from the remnant bin, and we make an afternoon "bee" of it. Grandmother would be proud.

Sometimes the cutting is against the grain and sometimes the stitches are uneven. Sometimes the pieces are sewn on backwards and have to be picked out, a stitch at a time. The needles are sharp and the pins get lost in the carpet, and oh! The time it takes to make something that could be so easily bought at the store. But still I persist. I am glad to have entered into this most prestigious of societies. That creative circle of the Women of Fibre.



Outside the Stereotype

by Enid A. Pottinger

The clerk inhaled audibly and raised an eyebrow ever so slightly when I asked for a student's discount. "You're too old to be a student," she said. "You can't use your grandchild's card." I showed her my student's card without exactly rubbing her nose on it, and she sighed, "Ooooh, you really are a student."

That anecdote is my first point about studying as a senior, and studying theology at that! Living outside the student stereotype is occasionally irritating, but on the whole great fun. No one ever denies you a seat in the crowded lunchroom, library staff is unfailingly polite, especially concerning computer skills, and you can giggle to yourself when other seniors ask you if you are at the college for Elder Hostel. No ma'am, I'm not. I'm here as a serious student of theology, albeit part-time.

"You're too old to be a student," she said. "You can't use your grandchild's card."

A recent article from my Psychology and Religion class tells us that we humans, and especially Christians, should bring the whole of our personality to bear upon our life in Christ, not just our strengths. I would never describe myself as an intellectual, or even as a very good student. Nevertheless, if you look at the pattern of my life, it seems every 20 or so years I get the "study bug" and return to a classroom, enthusiastic and bright-eyed. I think pursuing whatever you want to do in these circumstances promotes good mental health and more than keeps at bay the dullness of repeated ideas and predictable situations.

Experiencing the post-secondary academic world breaks the isolation, which retirement, and all that is familiar, can create. On one day of the week, or on one evening of the week, I am someone else. I do not respond to "My dear" or "mother" and I do not know where anything other than my school bag is located. I am free to be a new person, should I choose, and I carry little but my study books. I am free to stare and enjoy the performances of the younger generation as they go by me—intense, funny, perhaps disgusting, but always interesting. The anonymity of my situation is delightful.

With this freedom come lots of new acquaintances. I am astonished at what some people struggle with to attend university and adult education courses. The meshing of their life stories with my experiences makes for great conversations, surprising comparisons, minutes of intellectual understanding, and moments of tenderness.

It seems to me that experiencing education in one's mature years positions you in a favoured spot. It is easy as pie to identify the unprepared lecturer, the pompous and insistent student who is finding his or her rhetorical voice, and the bored and boring professor. We can recognize all the tricks. Because we are taking our education in a pure sense (not job-oriented), such colleagues assume a place, not in our future world, but in a rightful eddy of compassion and humour. We remember ourselves.

> "We can recognize all the tricks. Because we are taking our education in a pure sense..."

There are challenges to be sure. Recovery from stressful deadlines and peak productions is slower than it used to be. The computer is an essential and baffling colleague. The pace of university life is quick; you are often the last to get across the street and you wish every professor was skilled at using a head microphone. The vocabulary of academia has lots of new words—words that you thought you understood, but now, suddenly, glossaries and encyclopedia are never far from your right hand. The rest of your responsible life does not go away. There are still relationships to be maintained, and the context of your real life to be shared and shaped.

I would not want to conclude this article by leaving the impression that one engages in studies as a preventative measure against the inevitable slow slide into incapacity. Not at all. Certainly, studying is not everyone's cup of coffee. New adventures and new challenges can be an adrenalin rush. They can open doors for new understandings, new friends, and some wisdom. There are even student discounts where a senior's does not apply.

Enid Pottinger has been living in Hamilton since 1987. She holds a B.A. and B. Music and is currently a part-time Master of Theological Studies student at Knox College; in 2002 she completed the Knox's Certificate in Christian Studies. Her husband and family are very supportive of her studies, although they are suspected of having whispered one to the other, "What next?"

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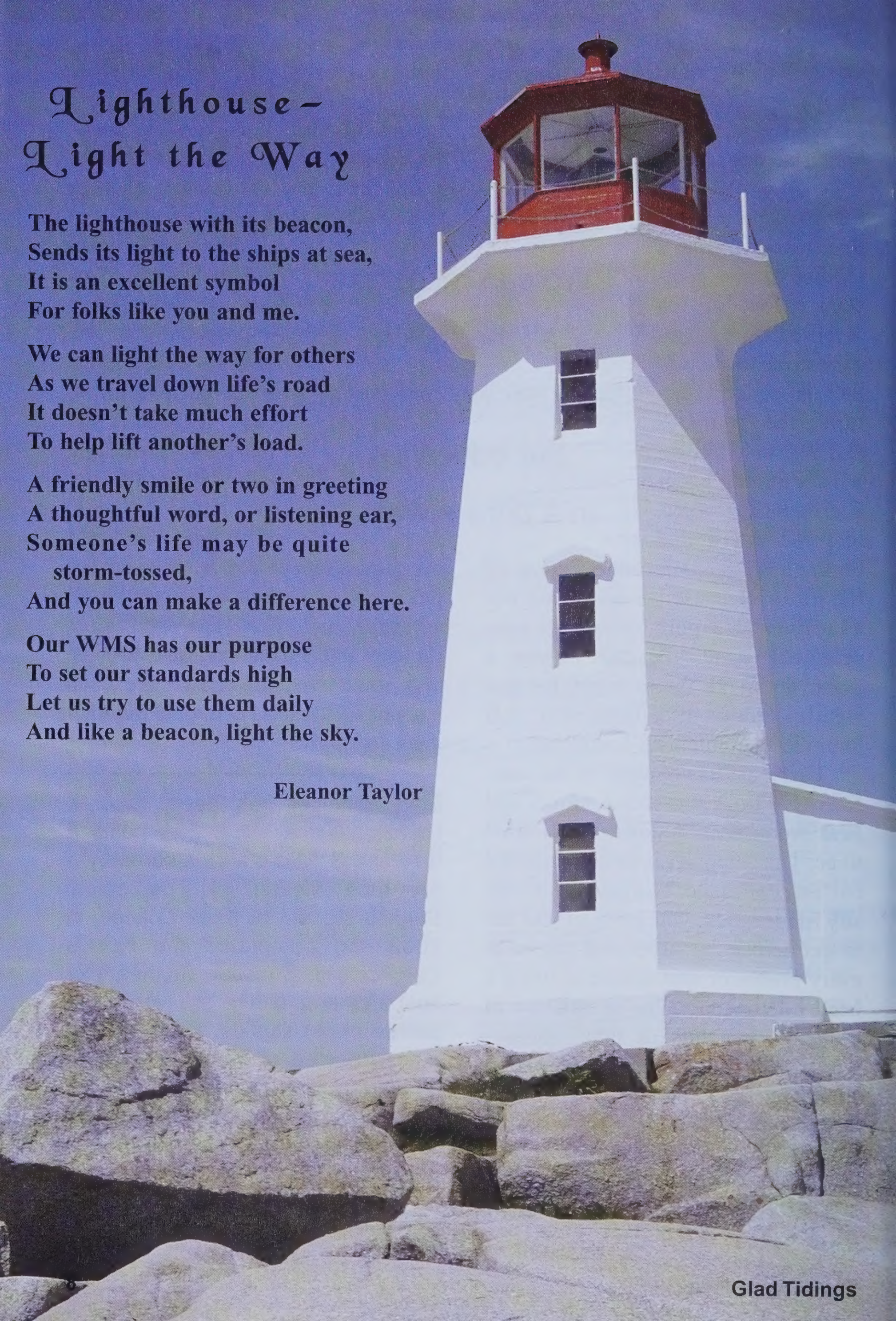

Lighthouse – Light the Way

The lighthouse with its beacon,
Sends its light to the ships at sea,
It is an excellent symbol
For folks like you and me.

We can light the way for others
As we travel down life's road
It doesn't take much effort
To help lift another's load.

A friendly smile or two in greeting
A thoughtful word, or listening ear,
Someone's life may be quite
    storm-tossed,
And you can make a difference here.

Our WMS has our purpose
To set our standards high
Let us try to use them daily
And like a beacon, light the sky.

Eleanor Taylor

Joys, Struggles, and Questions of a Mature Student

by Brynn Carson

At age 55, I ask myself why I am getting up at 5:00 a.m., leaving husband and children behind, and driving for almost two hours into Montreal for a one-hour class. I do this because I am already getting a taste of what this education will equip me to do. For the last five years, I have had the privilege, as a student minister, of serving wonderful people while I "work" my way through seminary. I view ministering here in God's country—Glengarry County in Ontario— as my rest from the demands of seminary.

"Theological education seems to be geared to those who are 'head' ministers."

Entering the ministry at a chronologically mature point in my life has been a very challenging experience. Some courses reduce me to tears, others to tearing my hair out, and I am wondering why I ever felt called to this life. However, some other courses are delightful, exciting, and enlightening. I sit and listen to my much younger colleagues firing off questions and wonder how they formulated these thoughts—after all, we did read the same articles. But, I fear studies will never come easily to me. I am a doer not an academic. I will struggle through because I love ministry.

As a result of my studies at McGill, my sermons are certainly more theologically prepared. I am pleased to have the opportunity to preach in Chapel as well as take the third-year preaching class where sermons are critiqued by both staff and students. However, I guard against becoming academically condescending like one preacher I heard, which left me feeling dissatisfied, ignorant, and inadequate.

Several years ago our Director of Pastoral Studies asked us how we saw ourselves and each other as ministers: Do we operate primarily from the heart, the head, or with the hands? Although I have always felt I needed to be doing something, others adamantly stated that I was a "heart" minister. I was not surprised to hear that the other woman in the group was deemed a "hands" minister while the majority of the men were recognized as "head" ministers. Granted, two of these men are now working on doctorates; however, I feel that women are still being judged primarily by their gender and not by academic aptitude.

Theological education seems to be geared to those who are "head" ministers. As one who is very happy and secure in being a "heart" minister, I would like then to propose more pastoral care/palliative care courses, as well as more hands-on experiences within our course of studies. These courses could be made easily accessible to all rather than limiting them to only six students per unit, as in a clinical pastoral education course. Through this interaction perhaps the heads, hearts, and hands can all learn to work together for Christ.

The gender imbalance is very apparent in our college. Although there are more women each year entering seminary, we still have a long way to go to reach a 50:50 ratio. Of the seven women with whom I have studied, only two were under the age of 25; the rest of us were 55 and over. In many cases, women are still holding down two other full-time jobs [wife and mother], and possibly a financial part-time job as they add "student" to their job description.

I would like to see more men taking the Women's Studies courses offered at McGill. In my last three Women's Studies courses, it was encouraging that all the men in the class truly wished to view the topic through feminist eyes. They were very open about their views and their support of some extremely controversial issues.

Several years ago a cigarette ad propounded: "You've come a long way, Baby!" Sadly, I do not think we have. I think we have barely scratched the surface. Time and time again, I feel that the voices of all are not being heard equally. Drawing from Paul's words in Galatians: "There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Let us remember why we are on this road, knowing full well that there will always be those who feel we should not be preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but secure in the knowledge that we have been called by Christ.

Brynn Carson has been a part-time student for five years and is in her second year at Presbyterian College. While she shares many thoughts, fears, struggles, and joys with her female colleagues, the opinions expressed here are her own. Brynn is the student minister of Kenyon Church in Dunvegan and St. Columba in Kirk Hill. She lives in Dunvegan, Ontario, with her husband Thomas Smith [who is a radio engineer], their teenaged daughters Emily and Lisa Jane, a white, deaf boxer named Schmoo, and a cat named Alexander.

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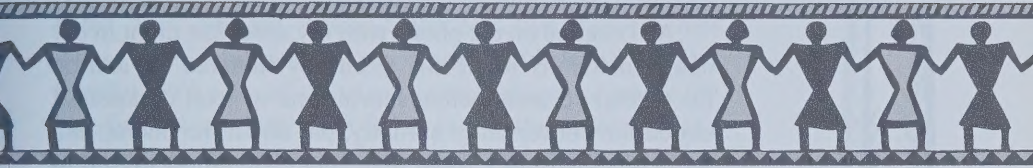
Amneh Badran — Jerusalem Centre for Women

by Ken Stright



What a Wednesday! The preparation had been intense, the anticipation even more so. Off to the airport I went; I wanted to be early. This was to be a full day—December 1, 2004, Halifax. Remember it? You probably do. It made the headlines in every paper in the nation. George W. Bush was coming to town. When President Bush comes to town, everything stops—and that includes air traffic. So there I waited for almost two hours. I got to wave "good-bye" to President Bush as Air Force One raced down the runway heading for the safety of Washington.

But all the waiting was worth it because I was waiting for Amneh Badran. Amneh was in town to promote peace and peace-building as a guest of a local cluster of KAIROS (the unique Canadian organization for Justice and Peace).

Although late, I was finally able to get Amneh to her sharing circle at the Anglican Cathedral to the enthusiastic reception of dozens of people who wanted to know about peace. Amneh is the Executive Director for the Jerusalem Centre for Women. It is a Palestinian organization of women involved in the process of nation building and developing Palestinian society while training Palestinians in democracy, human rights and advocacy, and peace. The Centre has joined with Bat Shalom (together they are called Jerusalem Link), a Jewish Women's organization to work for and promote peace among the people of Palestine and Israel. The obstacles to such a process of working together for peace are staggering—even finding a place where everyone's "papers" will permit them to meet is a problem.

Amneh gave us an overview of the situation for the Palestinian people. She is a resident of East Jerusalem and has seen the erosion of Palestinian rights. If the situation is hard for Palestinians, it is impossible for Palestinian women who have even less rights. In the midst of this situation is the call for peace. "What choice do we have?" she asks. The alternative to peace is the continued hostility of half a century. "But we can't do it alone!"

Here the message becomes much more personal. Amneh and her allies —Jewish, Muslim, and Christian—are doing what they can in a difficult

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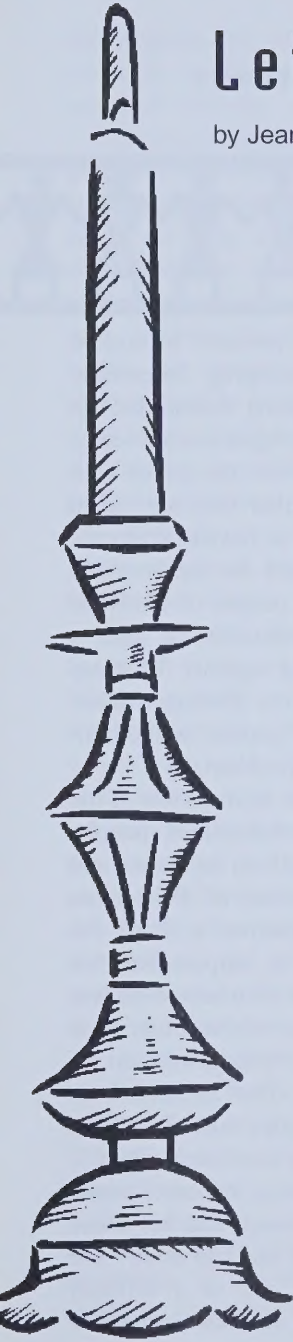
Left in the Dark

by Jeanette Brimner



As I chatted on the phone with my sister last night in our basement family room, the electricity fluttered off and on for several seconds before leaving me in total darkness. I closed the conversation abruptly, put down the phone, and sat in the pitch black room long enough to adjust myself to the situation. My husband was playing duplicate bridge in another town so I felt helpless and vulnerable. To make matters worse, the second the lights went out my imagination switched on in full colour.

Eventually I groped my way gingerly up the open-backed stairs to the living room. As I climbed, I pictured a person, the same one who had turned off our power, lurking under the stairs. Would he grab my ankle causing me to fall? If he demanded money, how would I find my purse in the pitch black? It was never in the same spot twice! Then I noticed, as I looked out the window, that the village street lights were off. Relief! The whole town's power must have been knocked out.

I finally reached the living room and plunked down on the couch. So this was what it felt like to be blind. Enveloped in the still night, I began to pray. I pictured Clarence, my guardian angel, being nearby and calming me down. Then distracting thoughts took over. How long would the electricity be out? Was more than just the town dark? Had a terrorist attack occurred? Our radio battery was dead so I had no way of finding answers to my questions.

I stopped praying and guided by a stream of moonlight shining through the skylight I carefully crept up another flight of stairs to the bedroom. Cautiously I felt for the flashlight in the night table drawer. The battery worked! Feeling like someone during a blackout in World War II, I crept back downstairs following the dim path of the flashlight into the kitchen. There I lit a candle with a barbecue lighter and went back into the living room to sit down. The candle light was barely bright enough to let me read.

While waiting for my husband to come home I had two and a half hours to read, contemplate my life, and imagine more scenarios that could have caused the power outage.

I shivered under two comforters as the heat slowly dissipated. I recalled the tension-filled days two weeks before when I had experienced my fourth episode of internal bleeding in a span of six years. Tests to diagnose where the bleeding was coming from failed to find the cause until the most recent test taken a week ago. The doctor said that nothing serious was causing the episodes but they could occur again so I would have to live with this fact. Driving home from the doctor's office I felt mixed emotions. I was relieved there was no serious cause for the bleeding but I wondered how I could live peacefully, knowing it could not be prevented from happening again. My soul felt dark and lonely until my guardian angel reminded me I had to trust in God. All the worrying and fretting would not prevent another episode. I began to breathe deeply, and slowly a ray of peace lit my soul. The power of hope and trust had been switched back on.

Just as I was feeling accustomed to the power being off, and finding the darkness and quiet both productive and soothing, my husband came home. I guided him into the house with my flashlight and we headed to bed. We cuddled under three comforters and tried to keep warm as I recalled some of the insights I had experienced that evening; soon we were asleep.

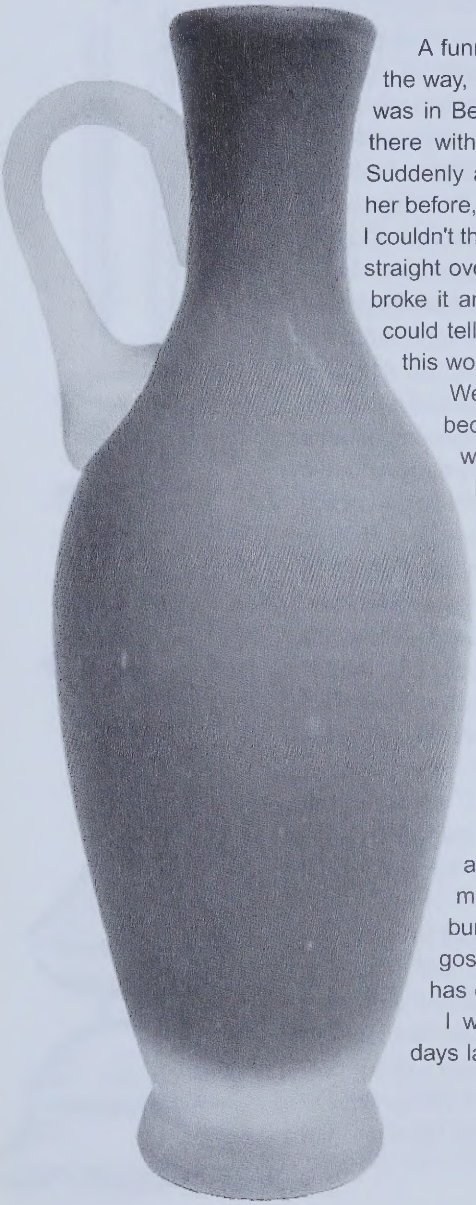
Two hours later the power came on. I woke up and turned off the lights that had awakened me. By morning the house was feeling cozy again and we were happy to have back the conveniences electricity provides.

I was also thankful for the period I had experienced without power. It gave me time to think and pray and enhance my appreciation for things we take for granted. I renewed my trust in God who comforts us when we feel lost in the darkness and are fearful. There is nothing like a power outage to renew the soul and put things in perspective. I will try to remember that the next time we have another blackout.

A Funny Thing Happened...

Mark 14:1–9

by Lois Klempa



A funny thing happened—let me tell you about it. By the way, my name is Simon and I live in Bethany. Jesus was in Bethany and was visiting me. His disciples were there with him. It was just two days before Passover. Suddenly a woman came in from the street. I had seen her before, she was often with the group around Jesus but I couldn't think of her name. She didn't say a word but went straight over to Jesus. She had a jar in her hand and she broke it and poured the contents over Jesus' head. You could tell it was an expensive ointment as immediately this wonderful fragrance filled the room.

Well, we were all speechless. Then some of us became angry. We were shocked to think that this woman had the audacity to approach Jesus—a Rabbi—and to actually touch him. But we remembered how surprised we were to find him talking to the woman at the well—and how he welcomed the unclean woman who touched his garment. Then, of course, there were the women who had travelled with him from the beginning of his ministry. We thought it would be safer to attack her for wasting the perfume. Jesus always took the side of the poor. So we said, "This ointment might have been sold and the money given to the poor."

Then Jesus said the strangest thing. "Let her alone...she has done a beautiful thing to me...She has anointed my body beforehand for burying. And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

I wish I could remember her name. Just a few days later, Jesus was crucified.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

DEFENCE AND SECURITY

It is time for our Church to reflect on Canada's defence policy, which must ensure the security of its citizens. Since human security is a key policy approach to Canada's foreign policy, it might be possible to re-direct Canada's defence policy by placing it in the context of human security. This would lead to a changed role of the military. The challenge to our government is not adding more of the same military capacity, but to employ military forces that are trained and equipped to support regional peace and security initiatives without escalating violence and distrust.

In considering how to equip the Canadian Armed Forces for this new role, the Canadian government should first explore alternative military models that focus on protective intervention. Firstly, Canada might consider a specialized role for its military forces, a role between traditional peacekeeping and war fighting.

Secondly, Canada must promote a more effective institutionalized framework for multilateral decision-making and military action. The international community should work together in developing a model for a multilateral response based on the specific conditions and needs of the vulnerable in the area.

Thirdly, our government would do well if it developed a comprehensive Canadian security policy and spending priorities to reflect both the military and non-military dimensions of its international peace and security efforts.

The changing nature of global conflicts suggests that the continuing emphasis on increasing military capacity must be balanced by a greater attention to the non-military dimensions of security.

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 130th General Assembly, June 2004. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2004.

Text: Dineke Kraay   Editing & Design: Gail Turner

His Presence ~

by Angela Maxwell

"Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

(Matthew 10:29–31)

It is a cloudy summer afternoon and I am sitting with my feet up by my kitchen window, luxuriating in a good book and my "after lunch" tea. There are a few serious matters in my thoughts—a friend's husband has just lost his job, another friend has been diagnosed with breast cancer, another has had a "back-to-the-hospital" experience with his heart condition. A sudden torrential downpour breaks in on the luxury of my solitude.

As I watch, fascinated by the intensity of the badly needed rain, my eyes focus on one of mother nature's dramas being acted out on my front lawn. A family of blue jays is in distress.

The parents from their treetop world are hovering over their two chicks on the ground below. The chicks have obviously been on a "flight training mission" which has been aborted due to the sudden rainstorm. They are bobbing up and down and groping their way through the grass as they receive directions from above.

The calling of the parents begins to sound frantic! Their own feathers are getting wet in their attempt to direct the chicks to safety. Finally, the chicks find a "port in the storm." They manage to uplift themselves just enough to perch on the bottom branch of our little apple tree.

For two hours, with the rain thundering down, the little birds sit motionless on their perch as though they have been instructed to "stay put and not move." The parents have disappeared.

As the rain subsides the parents return, circling around and around, moving ever closer to their chicks. One swoops down from the roof to feed the little ones who are fanning and puffing up their feathers trying to get dry. For another hour I watched as the parents continued to encourage them to spread their wings and fly.

I moved to the edge of my seat as one of the chicks hopped onto the road…I am aware of the dangers...my mind goes to the cars coming along and, dread of dreads, the cat who lives across the street. I ran outside thinking that I could shoo it back onto our lawn. I was too late! It was already across the street. I returned to the house. Within minutes I could see that the parents had been able to get the stray chick back on their training field. My inner counsel tells me they are being guided by You and I can still my anxiety knowing You are with them. As I sat contemplating the drama I had just witnessed, I became aware of the truth that the loving care and devotion I saw in the parents of the blue jays was in the heart of our Creator in the beginning and so, it is a part of all creation—a gift to every created thing. This being true, I can trust and have confidence that You will care for me and those I love with the same loving care, devotion, and diligence.

Call of the Nightingale

by Dale E. Harris

Sheltered deep within the forest
of the old world
Among quiet and starlit skies,
A sound of beauty steeped in rich
melodious grace
Gives us a song that could only
come from this place
Music of splendid harmony made
by this male
Is the resplendent call of the
nightingale.
The roundelay stills the night
As this magnificent little wonder
takes flight,
Moving with the flutter of a tune
As the darkness of the day is
swallowed by the moon.
Communicating with perfect pitch,
He summons his mate
For an illuminating rendezvous.

Biblical Mothers

by Rosalie Sugrue

The Mother of:

Solomon	_ _ _ _ _ _ _ B _	(2 Samuel 12:24)
Asher	_ I _ _ _ _	(Genesis 30:12–13)
Esau	_ _ B _ _ _ _	(Genesis 25:20–25)
Dinah	L _ _ _	(Genesis 34:1)
Dan	_ I _ _ _ _	(Genesis 30:4–6)
Miriam	_ _ C _ _ _ _ _	(Numbers 26:59)
Ishmael	_ A _ _ _	(Genesis 16:15)
Benjamin	_ _ _ _ _ L	(Genesis 35:24)

Perez & Zerah	_ _ M _ _	(Matthew 1:3)
Gershom	_ _ _ _ O _ _ _	(Exodus 2:21–22)
Ephraim	_ _ _ _ _ T _	(Genesis 41:50–52)
Samuel	_ _ _ _ _ H	(1 Samuel 1:19–20)
Seth	E _ _	(Genesis 4:25)
Boaz	R _ _ _ _	(Matthew 1:5)
Isaac	S _ _ _ _	(Genesis 21:1–3)

Answers on page 23

Nasty Business

"Sexual Misconduct" a chilling phrase. Yet, sadly, it is a fact of life that all of us must address seriously.

In 1993 The Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted a "no tolerance" policy, which has been widely circulated and revised periodically.

Yet the numbers of highly publicized incidents of sexual misconduct by clergy and other leaders have been a source of grief for all of us within the Christian Church.

Insurance companies have responded by demanding that all congregational leaders be knowledgeable about their denominational policy. Many presbyteries and congregations have had orientation workshops to meet this requirement.

> We have an obligation, however, to be involved in the process of preventing sexual misconduct.

But surely our response should be motivated even more by concern for members of our community who may be victimized by sexual misconduct.

As useful and necessary as these denominational policies are, they speak primarily to what process should be followed when a charge of sexual abuse or harassment is made.

We have an obligation, however, to be involved in the process of preventing sexual misconduct.

The Toronto Diocese of the Anglican Church has an excellent videotape depicting five separate vignettes, which lend themselves to discussion of the kinds of patterns that can lead to sexual misconduct.

The videotape is entitled *Sexual Misconduct in Our Churches: Learn to Spot It; Learn to Stop It*, and is available at The Book Room for $21.00.

Perhaps discussion of the topic is not high on everyone's to-do list. It is, after all, nasty business.

We would do well though to remember Paul's admonition to Timothy: "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Donna M. Wells

Amneh Badran

continued from page 11

climate, but it is not enough. They need Canada and countries like Canada to move world opinion. They need people of peace to promote peace-building by calling on government to return to traditional Canadian policies in regard to the Middle East. Our support of the Palestinians for peace needs to be moral, political, and economic. Palestinian people need to know they are not alone. They need to know that pressure is being applied to resolve the situation under which they have lived as refugees within their own country.

"There is no other choice," Amneh says, "I must be a contributor to a better future."

Address www.presbyterian.ca/wms

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Women's Missionary Society

Locate WMS Group | WMS Book Room | Contact Us

Are you looking for:

- this year's Mission Awareness Sunday resources?
- contact information for regional staff, national staff, Presbyterials, Synodicals or local groups?
- the latest news from the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) or
- photos from the Korean Christian Church in Japan?

Well all of these can be found on the WMS web site.

Take time this month to visit the WMS web site and you will find a wealth of information.

Browsing tips:

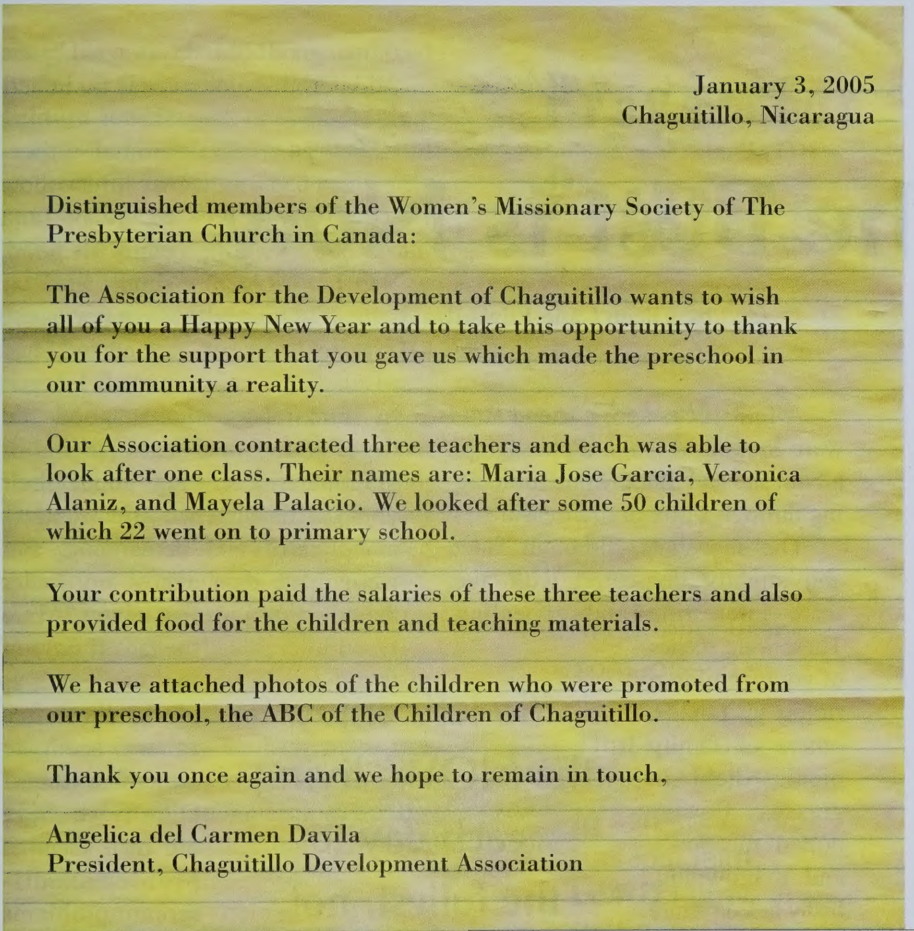
To go directly to the Women's Missionary Society's web site, type www.presbyterian.ca/wms into the address bar.

Once you are in the site, use the sidebar for easy navigation.

Locate WMS Group, WMS Book Room, and Contact the WMS are also links. Click to get a list of all WMS groups, view The Book Room web site, or get the contact information for regional staff, national staff, Presbyterials, Synodicals, etc.

The words "Women's Missionary Society" at the top of every page will direct you back to the home page.

Any questions or concerns about the WMS site? Contact Alexis Dimson, Program and Marketing Coordinator.



January 3, 2005
Chaguitillo, Nicaragua

Distinguished members of the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada:

The Association for the Development of Chaguitillo wants to wish all of you a Happy New Year and to take this opportunity to thank you for the support that you gave us which made the preschool in our community a reality.

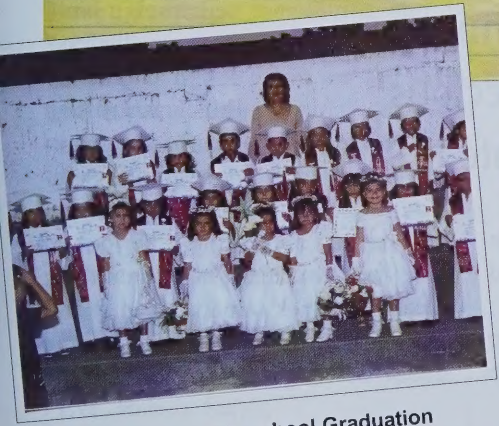
Our Association contracted three teachers and each was able to look after one class. Their names are: Maria Jose Garcia, Veronica Alaniz, and Mayela Palacio. We looked after some 50 children of which 22 went on to primary school.

Your contribution paid the salaries of these three teachers and also provided food for the children and teaching materials.

We have attached photos of the children who were promoted from our preschool, the ABC of the Children of Chaguitillo.

Thank you once again and we hope to remain in touch,

Angelica del Carmen Davila
President, Chaguitillo Development Association



Preschool Graduation

FELICIDADES
MAMA

Happy Mother's Day Dance

The Best is Now

by Eileen Cade-Edwards

A few weeks ago, a friend and I were looking through a photograph album she had found while rummaging through a box of old treasures.

The snapshots, although faded and slightly dog-eared with age, were interesting and appealing. There were scenes of young children riding fat ponies, others of family picnics held in grassy, flower-dotted meadows, and a browning, badly faded picture of an early model car surrounded by admirers in long skirts and broad hats. Everyone looked happy and composed, and I wondered what it would have been like to have lived in that day and age.

> "So let's enjoy the NOW; living each day to the fullest, not wasting one precious minute of it!"

My hostess closed the album with a wistful sigh. "We'll never see those good old days again," she said. "You see, there was no helter-skelter rushing around then. We knew how to relax and enjoy the good, simple life."

After my friend and I had parted, I began to think about those "good old days." One often hears parents or grandparents talking about their younger days, when life was less complicated and demanding. But were those days really any better than the times we live in now? Were the far-off days of our own youth as ideal and carefree as we seem to remember them? Didn't we have our own share of problems—different problems perhaps, but problems nonetheless?

Of course we did! It is just that time has a remarkably compassionate way of allowing the sad and difficult periods of our lives to fade while the lovely, peaceful times remain clear in our memories—perhaps even to the point of exaggeration. How many times have we revisited a remembered place, a fascinating old building, a beloved home, a park or favourite area, only to find it isn't nearly as wonderful or beautiful as memory had painted it?

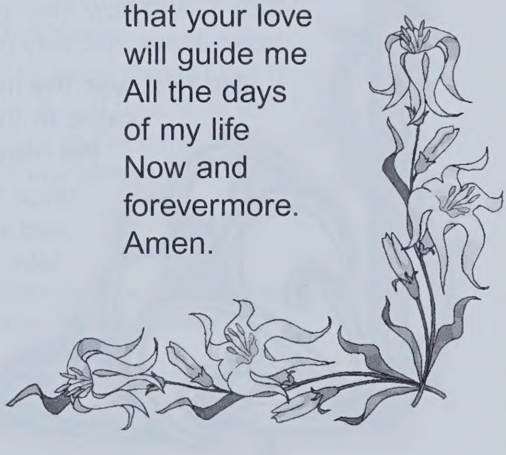
Looking back on my own youth I know there were problems and disappointments, only thankfully, I can no longer remember the pain of them; this is the way it is for most of us. No wonder that now, when problems beset us, we sometimes long for the good old days; but, if we stop to think about it, today is really just as wonderful. Opportunities are being offered every age group as never before. Extended education is available for everyone, and there is a wide choice of recreational facilities, health care benefits, pensions, and grants. Even travel to distant places has become a way of life. And certainly we have more free time now to enjoy ourselves. So let's enjoy the NOW; living each day to the fullest, not wasting one precious minute of it!

Although, of course, we must make plans for the future and be served by experiences from the past, let's enjoy our lives as we live them, appreciating the everyday wonders that we so often take for granted. Let's live today for all it is worth, for these can be the happiest days of our lives.

Biblical Mothers Puzzle Answers:
Bathshe**b**a, Z**i**lpah, Re**b**ekah, **L**eah,
B**i**lhah, Jo**c**hebed, H**a**gar, Rache**l**;
Ta**m**ar, Zipp**o**rah, Asena**t**h, Hanna**h**,
Eve, **R**ahab, **S**arah.

Prayer for Purpose

Please Lord
use me as an
instrument
to end suffering
in this world.
To comfort
the lonely.
Lord I pray
that my smile
might encourage
someone to
carry on.
That my nature
might give hope
to someone who
has lost faith.
LORD I pray
that your love
will guide me
All the days
of my life
Now and
forevermore.
Amen.



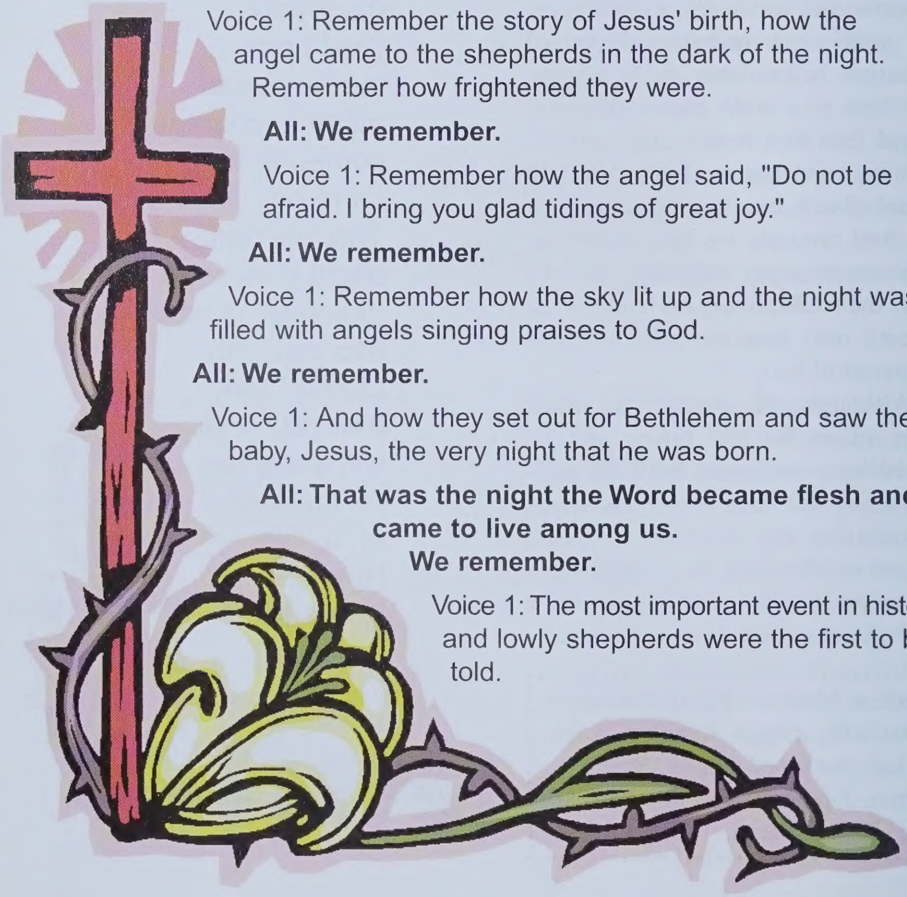
EASTER WORSHIP
For Women in Today's World

by Elizabeth Kidnew

Hymn: #143 "Infant holy, Infant lowly" or #142 "I wonder as I wander"

Prayer of Approach:

All: As a child, you entered our world, O Lord.
Come to us, now, as we remember the events
of your coming and of your rising.
For your love's sake. Amen.



Voice 1: Remember the story of Jesus' birth, how the angel came to the shepherds in the dark of the night. Remember how frightened they were.

All: We remember.

Voice 1: Remember how the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you glad tidings of great joy."

All: We remember.

Voice 1: Remember how the sky lit up and the night was filled with angels singing praises to God.

All: We remember.

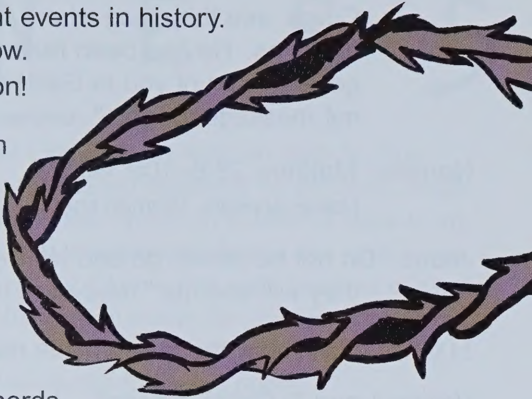
Voice 1: And how they set out for Bethlehem and saw the baby, Jesus, the very night that he was born.

All: That was the night the Word became flesh and
came to live among us.
We remember.

Voice 1: The most important event in history, and lowly shepherds were the first to be told.

Voice 2: ONE of the most important events in history. There is another, you know.

Voice 1: Of course, the Resurrection!



Hymn: #243 "Jesus Christ is risen today"

Voice 1: Christ is risen!

Voice 2: He is risen, indeed!

Voice 1: God has sent his angel, again.

Voice 2: Yes, but not to lowly shepherds.

Voice 1: Perhaps not, but to lowly women. Imagine! At this time, in this place, women were not even persons in their own right. They were chattels, to be transferred from father to husband like cattle. They had no voice. For instance, they were unable to bear witness in a court of law. Yet, they are the first to hear the good news.

Voice 2: With what love and compassion God must have sent his angel to those women. The gospels may not agree about how many women there were, but they all agree that women were the first to receive the news.

Voice 1: And the first to proclaim the glad tidings to others. How God delights in turning our social conventions upside down!

Voice 2: That is true; but this isn't quite like the night of Jesus' birth when the night became alight with angels.

Voice 1: Oh, but it is. It would have still been dark at the time of the actual Resurrection. The day is just now dawning. The sun is just rising as the women arrive at the tomb. And what about the earthquake and the angel? How awesome it all must have been! Listen...

Narrator: Matthew 28:1–5a, NRSV

[Two women enter while the scripture passage is being read. They are weeping. An angel sits on the stone in front of them.]

Angel: "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." (Matthew 28:5b–7, NRSV)

Narrator: Matthew 28:8–10a, NRSV
[Jesus appears. Women kneel.]

Jesus: "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10b)

Hymn: #256 "Now the green blade rises"

Voices 1 and 2: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen, indeed.

Voice 1: For women in the darkness of despair…
(Time for reflection: Names of women are read aloud, e.g., victims of rape, women suffering from postpartum depression, women who have lost a child to disease, violence, or drunk driving.)

Voice 1: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen, indeed!

Voice 2: For women in the darkness of oppression…
(Time for reflection: Names of women and their countries are offered, e.g., women of Ghana, Afghanistan.)

Voice 2: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen, indeed!

Voice 1: For women in the darkness of war…
(Time for reflection: Names of countries torn by war are voiced.)

Voice 1: Christ is risen.

All: He is risen, indeed!

Voices 1 and 2: For women all over the world, Christ is risen.

All: He is risen, indeed!
"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
(1 Peter 1:3, NRSV)

Hymn: #674 "In the bulb there is a flower"
or #188 "Hallelujah! hallelujah!" (Book of Praise, 1972)

WITNESS

I witness the love and blessings that God gives us with our faith in Him.

A year ago, I found myself having to undergo treatment on my eyes, which required a corneal transplant, and later a further operation to insert a valve in my right eye, to divert the build-up of fluid that threatened to destroy the optic nerve.

I still have no sight in the right eye, but I know that with the love of God guiding the skill of my two eye specialists, I will regain the sight in that eye and have improved sight in the other.

During my blindness last March, I wrote the following poem:

ON MY BLINDNESS

by Kay Berry

When I consider how my light is spent
Is not this the way that Milton's poem went
When he considered his blindness?
I am not Milton, but I too have spent
Much time pondering how my sight was spent.
For now I see in shadows, not in clear bright tones.
There is a yellow clump beside the path I tread.
I stoop to look, and yes, it is a daffodil.
I think of Wordsworth and his daffodils,
And how my love and I once walked the edge
Of the lake where his sea of yellow blooms
Fluttered and danced in the breeze.
Yet in their thousands they were no longer there,
When I, and my love, wandered by, only one or two
Were left to dance and flutter in the breeze
That came from the lake.
Now here is this daffodil
And I must bend to see its golden head.
Last year I would have walked unheeding by
And taken not much notice but now
Dear Lord, I pray that I may once again
See the ripe colour of the daffodil
As she lifts her golden head unto the sun.

News

Providing Help in the Wake of the Tsunami

When a disaster happens, the first people to begin mobilizing relief supplies and aiding the survivors are local individuals. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D), through its local partners, and through Action by Churches Together (ACT), is part of a network of local people all over the world who can respond immediately to disaster situations. Working with local partners in such situations empowers people to respond to the needs in their own communities and countries.

After the tsunami disaster on December 26, ACT members (the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action in India and Yayasan Tanggul Benkana (YTB), CD Bethesda/YAKKUM Emergency Unit (YEU), and Church World Service in Indonesia) were on the ground from the very beginning distributing essential supplies, including food, water, emergency shelter materials, medicines, blankets, clothing, and cooking utensils. Often people helping with such distribution have themselves been directly affected by disasters.

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT

Mary Sriyoyogaveni and her husband David Shanmugaraja carry a pot of rice for themselves and othe people living at the Holy Trinity Methodis Church in Kaddaively in the northern Sri Lankan province of Jaffna. Mary and David lost their home daughter, and two grandchildren to the tsunami. ACT has helped provide food and other emergency supplies for people living at Holy Trinity Methodist Church.

Rev. Nadarajah Arulnathan, a pastor in Passikudah, Sri Lanka helps unload relief supplies at a Methodist Church in Valaichchenai. Arulnathan leads a local committee of church eaders coordinating the response in the region of he National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, a member of ACT. He personally lost 18 relatives n the disaster. Churches and NGOs have provided almost all of the relief to survivors in the area ravaged by the tsunami.

METHODIST CHURCH
ACT

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT

PWS&D's long-term development partner—the Institute for Development Education (IFDE)—also swung into action. Some of the communities IFDE works with are only a few kilometres from the devastation. PWS&D received a proposal from IFDE within days of the devastation and it immediately approved $25,500 to help 500 families in New Kalpakkam Village, a community that earns its living primarily from fishing. This was a unique situation where the women from IFDE's women's associations—women from very poor communities themselves—organized the relief distribution.

Anitha Mahendiran, Executive Director of IFDE, reports that the New Kalpakkam Village appreciated how the women visited them and confirmed the needs of the community before any distribution began. The village indicated it was the first time a non-governmental organization (NGO) had discussed their needs with them. The discussion created a sense of partnership between those who give and those who receive, Anitha explained: "This makes the community feel treated with dignity and respect." The discussion resulted in some changes being made to the initial relief plans that included changing candles to kerosene lamps, adding kerosene stoves for cooking, and providing wool blankets for the cool nights.

Presbyterian churches have responded generously to PWS&D's appeal for assistance for the tsunami victims. PWS&D staff have worked hard to have PWS&D included on the list of agencies eligible to receive matching grants from the federal government. Word that PWS&D was eligible arrived on the morning of January 11—just prior to the government's deadline for agencies to receive

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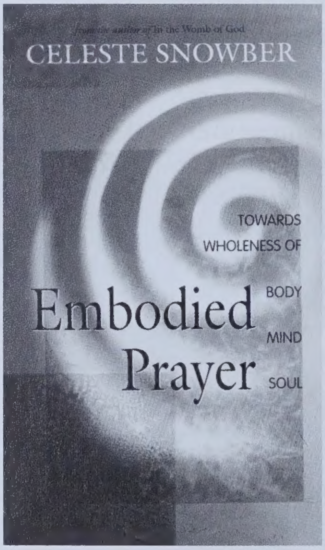
Reviews

***Embodied Prayer: Toward Wholeness of Body, Mind, and Soul* by Celeste Snowber, Northstone Publishing, $20.95**

This book has the "WOW" factor, and in all my years of pastoral studies I have never once read a more spiritually enlightened book than this one. Firstly, I was thoroughly impressed with Celeste Snowber's intellectually dramatic usage of words. Her literary style invites us to effortlessly read on. My second reason deals with the heartbeat of *Embodied Prayer*, which is the spiritual quest towards healing and celebrating life.



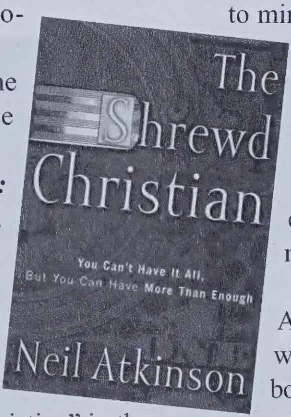
Prayer is a journey of the heart, which transcends every facet of our being. What does embodied prayer really mean? Embodied means to give bodily form to something, and in this specific instance it is referring to prayer. Prayer is communion with God—where spirit touches spirit. Snowber brilliantly puts forth the concept of using our whole being in worship—not only soul, but the body as well. She eloquently explores the many facets of how we can use our bodies as we express our innermost thoughts and feelings to God. A perfect example is when the ark of God is brought back to Jerusalem and King David begins to dance. His physical response was an outward expression of his joy as he witnessed this miraculous event. Snowber presents dancing in worship as a glorious way of artistically expressing our prayers to God.

The book is also practical in its appeal as it explores bodily prayer not only in corporate worship, but also in our everyday communion with the divine. The whole of our being becomes a continual reflection of our relationship with God as every breath becomes a celebration of life. We can experience inner joys as our voices resound the praises of God, while tapping our feet to the beat of the music. We can move in freedom through dancing, jumping, and leaping as life-giving words are born within our spirit. In essence, God becomes incarnated in our human bodies, and lives and moves through us.

Towards the back of this remarkable book there are exercises in embodied prayer. They represent expressive ways of releasing our faith through our bodies, taking us to new levels of communion with God.

I highly recommend this book for it is a masterpiece to which I am profoundly grateful to have had the opportunity to read. But I do so with this warning: "All those who dare to read this book may experience a new awakening of celebration through embodied prayer—proceed with caution."

Rev. Darlene
Lajeunesse



The Shrewd Christian: You Can't Have It All, But You Can Have More Than Enough **by Neil Atkinson, WaterBrook Press, $20.95**

We rarely find the words "shrewd" and "Christian" in the same sentence, yet Jesus puts them together quite deliberately in Matthew: "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves." (10:16, NIV)

Perhaps the Garden of Eden has left us a bit uncomfortable, under any circumstances, to be likened to snakes, but since Jesus considered it necessary to encourage his followers to emulate this one aspect of an otherwise repellant creature, it stands to reason that He had a point to make...

Neil Atkinson tackles the need to be "snake like" head on. He begins with a straightforward examination of Matthew 10:16, and by the time he finishes, I am certain, light bulbs will be going on in your head and the words "So, *that's* what it means" will come to mind.

Having clarified the meaning of being shrewd as snakes, in the world in general, Atkinson turns his attention, specifically, to applying the concept of shrewdness to money.

By his own admission, Atkinson is no financial wizard, which is undoubtedly why his book is readable, his tips practical, and his goals realistic. Throughout the book he deals with the big issues of generosity, debt, investing, and taxation, but he also deals with the nitty-gritty of the roof over your head, the need for a car, and what to do if money matters become a matter of financial hardship.

continued on page 37

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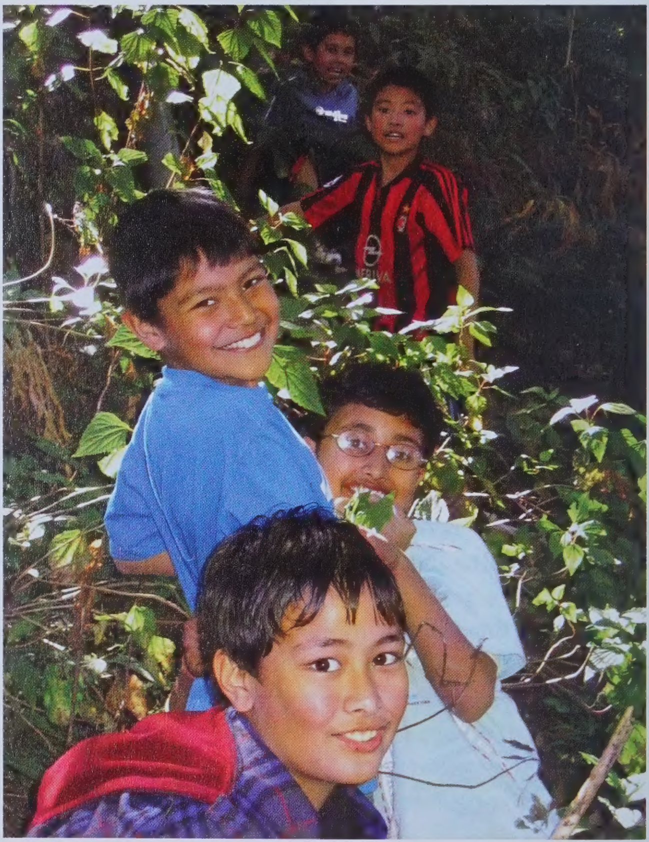
416-441-1111 1-800-619-7301
bookroom@presbyterian.ca

Alan and Rosalie Howard
Nepal

Monday, November 8, 2004

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ... See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these...So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'... But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:26–33, NIV)

These very familiar words from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount were read by Rosalie yesterday at our Edgehill Chapel, but this was not an ordinary worship service. Most Sundays see our Edgehill family trekking up the paths to Kellogg Memorial Church to participate in the first half of the bilingual (Hindi/ English) worship service and then departing for Sunday school during the sermon. The first Sunday of each month is a little different; in order to give the Sunday school teachers a week off, Rosalie and I conduct Edgehill Chapel, a worship and teaching time, geared specifically to the needs of our Residence's children. On these days, we usually meet for



30–40 minutes in the Edgehill Residence lounge, sing a lot of songs, and then read and teach one of the Bible stories. But yesterday was different.

Yesterday, we had a sleep-in morning (the kids are getting quite tired and need all the sleep they can get), and a lazy breakfast. Then all had to have their beds made and be dressed in play clothes by 10:00 a.m. We told our children that instead of holding our chapel service at Edgehill, we were going to God's building, and with Rosalie leading the way and me herding the stragglers at the end, we walked up the hill and around the Chukker (a road that encircles the top of our hill) until we were looking into the snow-capped Himalayan mountains to the north. From there we led our troop of 36 for 10 minutes down narrow paths until we came to a flattish spur. Here we all sat down together, watched the Himalayan white backed vulture glide just 20 metres above us, gazed at the never ending mountains, and basked in the warmth of the sun. It was at this point that Rosalie read the above passage. We talked briefly about the importance of seeking to know God and considering his will for our lives. We prayed and then, just as I'm sure the children did who were on that mountainside where Jesus taught, we played, explored, and climbed before heading back to Edgehill for a late lunch. It was a beautiful time of fun and adventuring.

I was walking back hand in hand with one of our grade 3 boys when he turned to me and said, "I wish there were no Maoist guerillas. Then I would be able to live at home in Katmandu with my family and go to school there." This eight-year-old boy, along with 15 more of our Edgehill children, has real worries—extortion, bombings, kidnappings, and his family's safety. It gave real perspective to the worries which often dominate my thinking. Please pray for these wonderfully beautiful children, their families, and the country of Nepal. And pray too that we, as Edgehill Residence Staff (Pravin, Shaheena, Lindsey, Rosalie, and me), would have the wisdom, patience, and stamina to meet the needs of these children entrusted to our care.

Though there is no official word, it is looking more and more likely that we will be staying on at Woodstock for an additional two-year period. We are excited by the opportunities to continue working in this vibrant and multinational community. We will inform you once plans are *pukkha* (Hindi for "firm" or "definite").

Thanking you for your prayerful support,

Alan (for all the rest)

Sonya Henderson
Beregszasz, Ukraine

Wednesday, November 10, 2004
Journal Entry

Some things I see in this country are so out of my realm of reality that they strike me—momentarily—as absurdly desirous of my attention.

An example: The other day as I was driving to work, I passed a man walking a goat on a rope "leash." Why would this man be walking a goat? But, I've been here long enough to know that instead, my question should read: Why *wouldn't* he be walking a goat? Still, a thing like encountering a man walking a goat by the side of the road as I drive to work strikes me as strange. I can't stop myself from commenting (sometimes aloud): "Man walking a goat!"

Another example: On my 40-kilometre drive to the school in Peterfalva, I cross the Tisza River on an extremely old and narrow bridge. The bridge is barely wide enough for two vehicles to pass each other comfortably. However, I never cease to be amazed at the variety of *other* things I see on the bridge that, typically, one doesn't see on a bridge. The other day, I had the opportunity to say (I confess, out loud): "Cow on a bridge!"

Yet another example: There are bread booths here. These booths are simple—just large enough for one person and many, many loaves of bread. They sell bread. Only bread. Nothing else. In a country that is often called "Europe's bread basket" because of its prodigious wheat production, the bread booths seem like a clever idea. Not only that, I have never encountered a people who eat more bread than Hungarians and Ukrainians (perhaps only rivalled by Romanians!). There are bread booths scattered all over the cities and towns. They are plunked down in random locations by the side of the road. Bread

Photo: Tammy LaRue

booths—who would have thought? And yes, upon seeing these booths, I have begun saying (of course, out loud): “Bread!”

Perhaps I should be more worried about my newly-found tendency to talk to myself. Yet, I see these little “out of the realm of my reality’s” as small blessings. They cause me not only to be aware of the life and culture here, but via my momentary confusion and befuddlement of these things, of my own Canadian culture.

Tuesday, November 16, 2004
Journal Entry

I was walking through the market yesterday and I was busy dodging the horde of other shoppers, begging gypsies, stray dogs, and puddles of mud and refuse. On the way to the vegetable stalls (which happened to be closed anyway), I passed a multitude of stands selling a variety of things—from plastic pots for house plants, to chocolate bars, bananas, hair spray, and cheap plastic radios. There are hundreds of these stalls all placed willy-nilly around the market with a labyrinth of over-crowded small “allies” throughout. Sadly, every fourth stall seems to sell the same sad merchandise. Cheap, plastic, made-in-China rip-offs that cost absolutely nothing. In all of this, I passed one stall which was completely indistinguishable from the hordes of others—even down to the overweight stall-keeper dressed all in black. It is here that I encountered the reason for this little description of the market: one of the stall radios was on and playing that “Hands Up” song that was used to advertise Club Med vacations back in the ’80s. It gave me a moment’s pause. I stopped, stared at the offending radio, and had a look around at the Ukrainian Club Med.

Overseas Staff Birthdays

April

11 - Sean David Allison, Cameroon
21 - John Fraser, Bahamas

May

26 - Pauline Brown, India

June

15 - Wendy Lessard-Clouston, Japan

July

20 - Alan Howard, India
22 - Makram Barsoum, Cyprus

Brian Johnston, Choir Director
Cluj, Romania

Dear Friends,

The recent Opera Gala was a big success and my choir achieved their best results ever especially in the Wagner chorus.

Thanks for all your prayerful support,
Brian Johnston

After the Gala, the following reflection was written by one of Brian’s students:

This is for Friends

Gáspár Károly, 4th year student

A week after the concert, after measuring all the impressions and reflections about it, I realized that the interest and fame of this event are really growing. As more skilled critics would say: On that evening reality exceeded the expectations!

Music still enchants all kinds of people. With a little magic, called worship, embodied in a well-organized repertoire, the step towards getting interested about God is just a glimpse away.

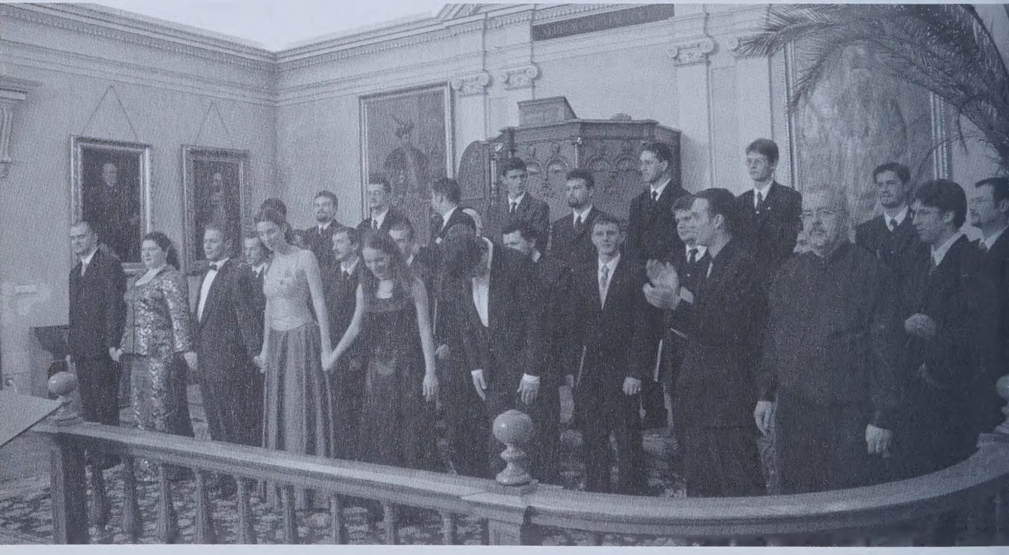
The choir tries to work like professionals inspired by one professional, the conductor. Yet, I do not tend to praise anyone but God that he had the merciful kindness to use us as tools for His purpose: spread the Truth through songs of worship.

Having a short history in the well known and highly qualified Choir of the Reformed High School of Kolozsvar—as many other colleagues in the male choir—I am glad that I can keep practising music on the same level as the choir mentioned above.

It is worth mentioning that it was a big step for the choir to learn a quite difficult part from Wagner's Tannhäuser. It is a good feeling to be an element of the choir when it tends to achieve more and more maturity, daring to present more and more difficult songs.

I am sure that this little team—wherever we'll go, alone or together—will always find the way to spread the gospel and to find friends with songs, simple words or deeds. Because God unites us not through enemies and wars, but through friends. **Because all this is for friends.**

This Opera Gala was made possible by Knox Church, Goderich, Ontario.



continued from page 31
Reviews (The Shrewd Christian)

Woven through these serious topics are amusing anecdotes, a rye humour, and a light-heartedness that are not often associated with the stewardship of money in a materialistic society.

The lasting impression I will have from this book, however, will be Atkinson's perspective on the role of money in a life of faith. I am not going to give any clues to what the author has to say on the topic, but whether money is threatening to become your master, or bombards your conscience with guilt and confusion, *The Shrewd Christian* will help you put money in its proper place—as your servant—and keep it there for a lifetime.

Dawn Porter

Join churches across Canada in celebration of mission work and mission possibilities.

**Sunday, April 24, 2005
is Mission Awareness Sunday**

Theme:
"What are we here for?"
written by
Rev. Dr. H. Glen Davis

Resources are available
on the WMS web site,
www.presbyterian.ca/wms
or from The Book Room,
1-800-619-7301

Forward in Faith

We are pleased to announce that effective January 2005 Wilma Welsh will be Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society.

Wilma is well-known in our Church, having served since 1960 in three departments of our national office. She was a missionary in Taiwan from 1969–1975. Wilma retired in July 2002 after a number of years as Administrator in International Ministries.

I am writing this column—my last—in the first week of January 2005. At this date we have received a total of $648,189.88 from our Presbyterials for the year 2004. This is a reduction of approximately $10,000.00 from receipts at this time last year, and a reduction of just over $30,000.00 from receipts for the year 2002.

We anticipate further receipts for 2004, as our books do not close until the middle of January.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Society across the Church for their continued support of the Society's work, and wish for them rich blessings throughout the year as they worship and study together.

Giollo Kelly
Treasurer

Readers Write

Women's Missionary Society:

Thank you for my first copy of *Glad Tidings* in large print. It is such a pleasure to read it so easily. I have been a member of the Women's Missionary Society for 50 years and though I cannot attend meetings as regularly as before, I still support my local group.

Thank you all for such faithful service for us. You are in my prayers. Happy New Year.

In Christian love,
Eileen Horne
Penetanguishene, Ontario

Dear Editor:

I am now getting the large print *Glad Tidings*. The new large print format is really beneficial to me. For years I have had trouble reading the regular size magazine even with my magnifying glass. Now I am better able to concentrate on the content. Please pass on my thanks for the large print edition.

Sincerely yours,
Frances Woodson
Kansas City, Missouri

Editor's note: The large print edition of *Glad Tidings* is available for the same cost as the regular edition. Please contact Circulation Manager Katherine Allen for details.

Greetings from Paris Presbyterian Church:

I read with interest the January/February 2005 edition of *Glad Tidings*. When I read L. June Stevenson's positive reviews of some of Tom Harpur's books, I was puzzled. Would you read the attached scholarly review of *The Pagan Christ*, and the comments that followed it? Do you think that, if Stevenson had read more before she wrote her review, she might have been a little more discerning?

A cursory read of any of the widely recognized history of doctrine works would have perhaps given a little better focus and insight into Harpur's rather sophomoric work. I would recommend especially my fellow Chicago alumnus, now Yale University history professor, Jarislov Pelikan's magisterial multi-volume work on the history of doctrine.

We are a Reformed, confessional church. Harpur dismisses us as conspirators in a vast cover-up. He denies and mocks the reality of the Jesus who is at the very core of who we are, and essentially calls us, as a denomination, "liars." So it seems especially odd in a Presbyterian magazine that a review of his book would completely omit any critical reflection about what Harpur's dismissal of our Reformed standards, and our commitment to the person and work of Jesus Christ, would mean.

Sincerely, Rev. Dr. Stanley Cox

In Memoriam

Rev. E. Margaret MacNaughton

Margaret MacNaughton died at her home on October 20, 2004 after a lengthy battle with cancer. To the end, she retained her lively wit and humour, her love of life and her many friends. At the memorial service held in her home church of Rosedale Presbyterian she was remembered as a loving aunt, a close personal friend, and an esteemed and learned colleague.

Margaret's connection with the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) started in the early 1950s when, as a Deaconess, she served as Regional Secretary for Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Education was her forte—in 1954 she moved to Ontario to take the position of Director of Christian Education at Victoria Church, Toronto, followed by the position of Girls' Work Secretary and Director of Teenage Work under the Board of Christian Education. While in these positions she displayed her exceptional writing and editing skills by writing the Presbyterian Church School curriculum.

The 1960s saw her studying at Union Theological College in the United States with a view to ordination. Ordination for women was not possible at that time in our own denomination, in spite of Margaret's earnest efforts to have that changed. On graduation she accepted the position of Associate Secretary with the Board of Christian Education, writing and editing educational material for the United Presbyterian Church, USA. She was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1973 by the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

She returned to Canada in 1975, joined the Board of Congregational Life to produce *Heritage Resources*, and later was given the task of revising the Church's worship resources,

Margaret MacNaughton and Druse Bryan

including the *Book of Common Worship*. When the history of our Society in *Certain Women Amazed Us* was being written, Margaret was an invaluable member of the editorial committee, bringing with her the editorial experience she had gathered over the years. She also contributed the foreword for the book.

Margaret loved life, loved her Church, loved her fellow human beings, and loved her Lord and Saviour. She was a champion of human rights, for the equality of the sexes, for the acceptance of gays and lesbians, for inclusive language, and for the telling of the Good News—Glad Tidings indeed!

Her many friends and colleagues will miss her, as lives were enriched and days made a little brighter after a visit and a talk with Margaret.

Submitted by: Druse Bryan

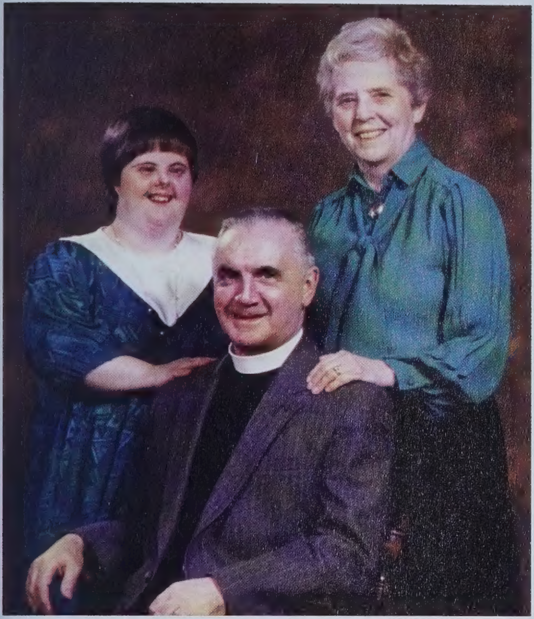
Agnes Mae McLeod Conkey

Born in Saskatchewan, Agnes was proud of her western Canadian roots. She also spoke fondly of her early life in Kenora, Ontario. As a young adult she answered a call to ministry and studied at the Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess Training School in Toronto where she trained as a deaconess. After graduation, Agnes was designated to the Order of Deaconesses and became Director of Christian Education at Riverdale Church, Toronto. She married Reverend Frank Conkey in 1955. Even though she was not allowed to continue as an active deaconess, Agnes' zeal for mission and Christian education did not diminish. In each congregation where Frank was called, Agnes used her training to lead church school and develop mid-week programs for children and youth.

While living in Pickering Village, Agnes was employed as the secretary of the local high school. She and Frank also put their energy into the organization *Community Living* in Ajax, Ontario —a project benefiting not only their special daughter Sheila, but also giving countless young adults, and adults, worthwhile work and recreation.

Agnes volunteered at all levels of the church. The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) was particularly dear to her heart. Agnes faithfully attended a Local Group throughout her life. Whenever she could, she was on the executive of the Presbyterial. Her special enthusiasm for Pickering Presbyterial resulted in her being secretary on an alternating basis with Anna Cook. Agnes was also involved at the national level of the WMS representing it on the Board of World Mission and convening the WMS Christian Literature Committee.

Agnes was first of all a woman of faith. She believed in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ his only Son, her



Agnes Mae McLeod Conkey, Reverend Frank Conkey, and daughter Sheila Conkey

Saviour. She relied on the guiding of the Holy Spirit and lived with confidence that God would open the pathways she needed in order to face the challenges of life.

I think Agnes' greatest gift was her love for people. She saw the good in everyone she met, but she also expected everyone she met to be a good and faithful person.

Agnes was a great storyteller. At each biennial council of the Order of Diaconal Ministries, Agnes and her classmates told story after story. They left listeners with a rich history of what real life was like for a 1950s student and young deaconess in our church.

The story Agnes loved to tell most though, was the one of Jesus and his love. She never hesitated to share her faith, and God's love for all, with children (in Bible discussion groups), and with neighbours, her doctors, caregivers—the list goes on. Agnes was full of kindness, goodness, compassion, generosity, and love. She blessed family, friends, and strangers with her life. We cherish Agnes' spirit of love for life and God's people.

Agnes Conkey died on November 13, 2004. She is lovingly remembered by her husband Reverend Frank Conkey, daughter Sheila, sister Cathie Martin, other family members and many, many friends.

Submitted by: Reverend Lynda Reid

continued from page 29
News

donations. PWS&D got the message out to churches to send donations received before January 11 so that they could qualify for the matching grant.

As days stretch into weeks and months, the relief effort will begin to change from immediate relief to rehabilitation work, such as rebuilding houses, reconstructing water sources, and helping people restart small businesses. PWS&D continues to be committed to going beyond meeting immediate needs, and helping people live life with dignity in the long term.

In the Society

Synodical

The members and friends of the **British Columbia** Synodical Women's Missionary Society (WMS) have to date sent the following items to Malawi and India: 438 toques, 435 vests, 144 blankets, 103 pairs of mittens, and 13 pairs of booties. Also, I received a letter from Judy Ng'ombe, Acting Nursing Officer at Mulanje Mission Hospital, Malawi, acknowledging the receipt of baby blankets.

It is important to share with others the work that is being donated to this very important project and this letter lets us know the knitting has arrived and is appreciated.

I am the collection depot for British Columbia and am amazed and delighted at the volume of knitting I received and the variety. It is especially rewarding when we see pictures of small children wearing the items sent.

I pray this information will encourage other Synodicals to continue to support this project.

Deborah L. Miller
B.C. Synodical Treasurer

Presbyterial

The **Barrie** Presbyterial Women's Missionary Society (WMS) sponsored *A Day Apart: Women and Spirituality* on October 16, 2004 at St. Andrew's Church, Barrie. All the women of the churches were invited for worship, reflection and thought-provoking stimulation. There were many hands-on small group workshops.

June Campbell, Presbyterial president, welcomed everyone and introduced the leader for the day, Rev. Karen Horst.

Joyce McGookin, assisted by Julia Ranson, led the morning and afternoon fitness breaks. The sing-along leader was Catherine Brown. A book table was set up and a book review was given by Dorothy Ruddell. The St. Andrew's WMS prepared a delicious lunch of soups, assorted sandwiches, and cake and ice cream for dessert.

The day concluded with communion led by Rev. Dr. Rick Horst.

Ten members of the Women's Association of the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ) arrived in Vancouver in mid-September to begin

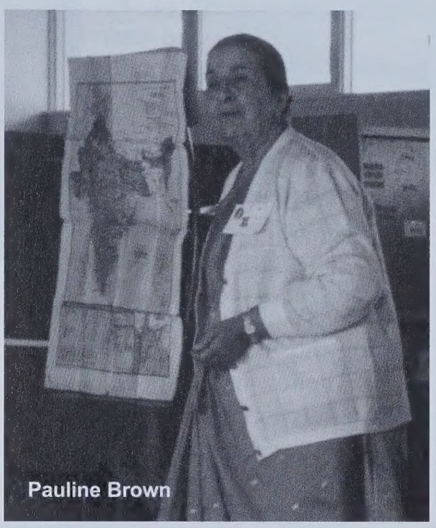
Pictured with the KCCJ visitors are (back row, righ Clarabeth McIntosh, who travelled across Canada with the group and acted as their interpreter, and (back row, left) Marg Befus, president, Calgary-Macleod Presbyterial, and Priscilla Towers, preside Synodical of Alberta and the Northwest.

a 17-day trip across Canada. The trip was a fulfillment of a dream held by Dr. Clarabeth McIntosh and the late Rev. Dr. Jack McIntosh that a group of KCCJ women would travel to Canada to meet and worship with women of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

These are women who have been actively involved in the KCCJ, struggling with racial, cultural, and religious discrimination, equality and gender-related issues for many years. Their warmth, enthusiasm, and firm Christian beliefs were expressed in worship and song at a gathering held in Calgary at Varsity Acres Church for women of the **Calgary-Macleod** Presbyterial.

The **Edmonton-Peace River** Presbyterial was blessed to have, as guest speakers, two wonderful, devoted servants of God: Pauline Brown on August 26, and Joy Randall on October 14, 2004.

Pauline shared her experiences as a missionary for over 50 years in the Bhil region of India, stressing the faithfulness of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.


Pauline Brown

Joy, now retiring after 35 years in Taiwan, gave an interesting account of the country's history, people, and medical highlights over the years.

Check your Facts

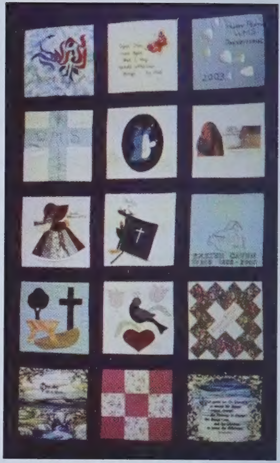
When reporting for the "In the Society" section please be sure to type or **print** clearly all names (location, group, members, and guest speakers) and position titles.

Thank you!

Thank you to the **West Toronto Presbyterial** for the kindness and generosity you showed when I attended your fall rally in October at Bonar-Parkdale Church. I enjoyed meeting you all very much and appreciated greatly your support and encouragement.

Sincerely,
Holly Wilson, Editor

The **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial made quilts for an auction in support of Camp Kintail. Each group prepared a block, which was assembled by executive members and later quilted at the rally. The quilts were auctioned for $750. Women of the Monkton group were hosts for the rally and they volunteered to complete the quilting.



The KCCJ visitors attended a **Waterloo-Wellington** Presbyterial meeting hosted by Knox Church, Guelph. Following a potluck dinner at Knox, a mission awareness event was held. Everyone present enjoyed our partner's singing and message. Beth McIntosh was a superb translator.

The Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial had their fall rally on October 18, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's, Kitchener. Rev. Rosemary Doran delivered a very meaningful message.

Women's
Missionary
Society

Left to right: Margaret Lewis, Rev. Rosemary Doran, and Wilma Welsh.

Local

The Alberton WMS held a special thanksgiving and praise service on October 5, 2004 at the Alberton Church to celebrate their 95th anniversary with guest speaker Heather Johnston. Vice-president Helen Billiald is shown cutting the cake while other members look on (next page).

On May 21, 2004 at Alberton Church, a quilt was presented to Dr. Heather and Dr. John Johnston in celebration of Dr. Johnston's 50 years in ministry.

On October 13, the Semper Fidelis Auxiliary WMS of Knox, Agincourt, celebrated their 75th anniversary. Former members and associate members were invited to join in the celebration.

During the mission awareness church service on October 31, 2004, the Knox North Easthope WMS presented Florence Fawcett (L) and Isabelle Satchell with their Honorary Certificates.

Karen Plater of Presbyterian World Service & Development addressed the group and showed slides of the work going on in various countries.

As part of the celebrations, life membership certificates and pins were presented to two deserving people—Donalda Westcott and Margaret Murray.

It was a time of fellowship, remembering the faithfulness of past members, and looking forward to the continuing support of missions.

Violet Reid, Janet Muirhead, Joyce MacIsaac, and Marjorie Shorting. All are long-time members of the Semper Fidelis Auxiliary WMS.

On November 21, 2004, St. Andrew's Church in Welland held their mission Sunday service. Mary Lou Johnston of Dunnville was the guest speaker and told us about her mission work in Nigeria and India.

Rev. Elizabeth Kidnew, Dolores MacLeod, Clerk of Session, Marilyn Leslie, president of the Women's Association, and Mary Lou Johnston.

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CIRCULATION NEWS

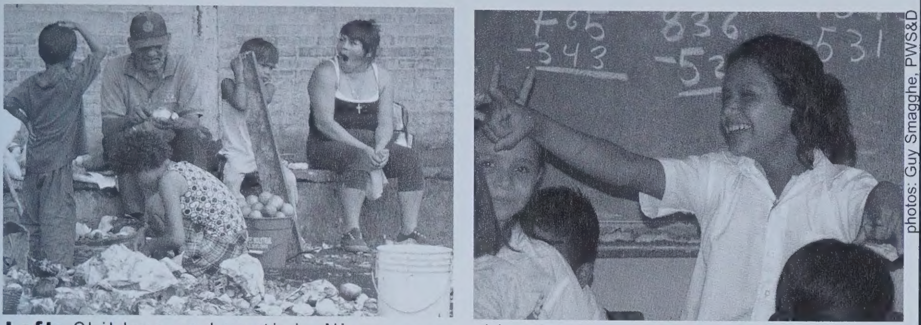
Katherine Allen

How does your group promote *Glad Tidings* in your congregation? As you know, promotion is an ongoing process. Some churches have promoted the magazine on Mission Awareness Sunday at the end of April. This has given congregations an opportunity to become more aware of the mission information included in the magazine.

Is your congregation, Presbyterial/ Presbytery, or Synodical/ Synod planning any special events? We can supply you with up to 50 copies of the magazine for promotion at these events. Please contact the *Glad Tidings* Circulation Manager and indicate the number of copies required and the name of the congregation or event. Also, do you have any promotional ideas to share? We will be pleased to include any ideas you may have in the circulation news.

It is never too late to subscribe to *Glad Tidings*. If during the year you know of someone who wishes to subscribe, just send in the name and address and we will add their name(s) to the list.

For 2004, it cost us $51.10 for magazine returns. This does not include the cost of postage for writing to the *Glad Tidings* Secretary to follow up on what the new address is. If you are moving, please notify us at least six weeks ahead and include a label from your copy of the *Glad Tidings* magazine. Thank you.



photos: Guy Smagghe, PWS&D

Left: Children and youth in Nicaragua working in the markets. **Right:** PWS&D partner INPRHU is helping working children go to school.

The markets of Nicaragua can be a rough place to be a child. Competition for business is fierce. Days are long and hard. Many children and youth who work in the markets are vulnerable to abuse. Many turn to drugs and alcohol as a means to escape. PWS&D's partner, INPRHU, is working to give working children and youth in Nicaragua a chance–to go to school, to be a child, to fulfill their dreams.

Help transform lives. Support PWS&D.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301

IN REMEMBRANCE

Agnes Conkey
St. Timothy's, Ajax, ON

Mrs. Joan (Bert) Arnold
Mrs. Christina (Jack) Ross
Knox, Cannington, ON

Mrs. Agnes (Nessie) Slater
St. John & St. Andrew, Hamilton, ON

Rachel Forester
St. Andrew's, Hanover, ON

Mrs. Dorothy Ellsworth
Amos (Dromore), Holstein, ON

Helen Edgar
St. Andrew's, Kamloops, BC

Anne Kranenburg
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Helen Ferguson
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Mrs. Vera Hill
St. Peter's, Madoc, ON

Mrs. Irene (English) Stewart
Morewood, ON

Mrs. Lillian Marcellus
Knox, Morrisburg, ON

Mrs. Marjorie Cook
Mrs. Mildred Hinds
New Liskeard, ON

Claudine Wallace
Richmond Hill, ON

Mrs. Margaret Robb
St. Marys, ON

Katherine MacKenzie
Westminster, Smiths Falls, ON

Margaret MacNaughton
Rosedale, Toronto, ON

Margery Boggs
Weston, Toronto, ON

Miss Margaret Robb
Knox, Victoria, BC

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Glad Tidings

May/June 2005

80 years

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Model: Denise LaRue

Glad Tidings

May/June 2005
Volume 81, No. 3

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ALEXIS DIMSON
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KATHERINE ALLEN

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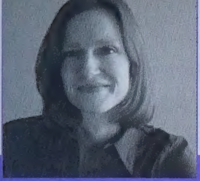
GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.



Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

In May and June we will celebrate Mother's and Father's Day. Mother's and Father's Day are not only times to remember our parents, or to be remembered as parents, but are occasions that give us the opportunity to think about our families and how we communicate with them. In this issue of *Glad Tidings*, you will find many articles on family interaction and how this interaction can sometimes go painfully wrong.

At the core of our family relationships, we need to remember that we are all human. Our parents, sisters, brothers, children, grandparents, etc. are human beings who are not perfect. This may easily be forgotten when you are frustrated with your sister for being so defensive, or wondering why your husband or father rarely opens up to you, or why your children keep fighting. If we are willing to look deep into our relationships and see the members of our family as human beings, we will discover that they are doing the best they can with the skills they currently possess.

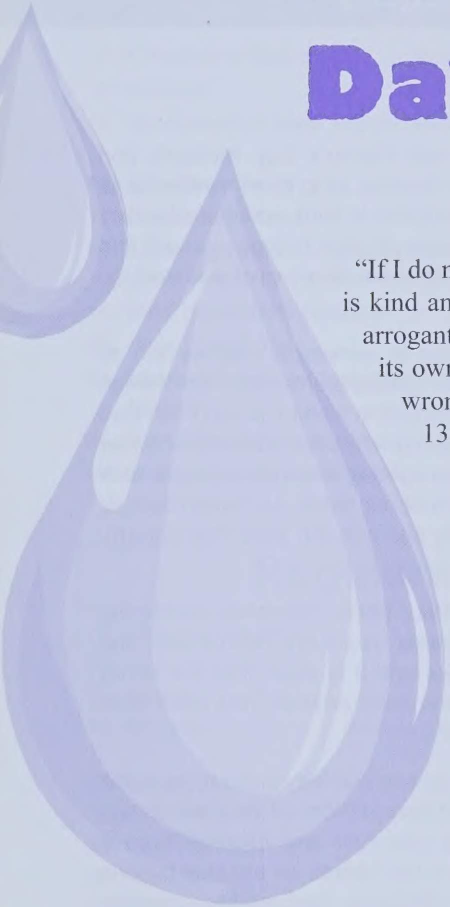
We sometimes have unrealistic expectations of our family members—becoming disappointed when they don't meet all of our needs. Jealously, resentment, and fear are all examples of natural human qualities and it is likely that our family members will express these raw emotions at some point. After all, how often have we felt or expressed these very emotions ourselves?

As we celebrate Mother's and Father's Day, let us see our family members in full colour—their positive and negative qualities and accept them as they are. When you feel angry or hurt by family members, close your eyes and visualize them in your heart. When we hold family members close to our hearts, we are able to open ourselves to unconditional love and forgiveness. Ultimately, love can heal anything and even when you feel that you are not receiving love, you always have the choice to express your love for others.

Love without fear of rejection. Give freely–without expectation.

One Dark Day

by Angie Lichty



"If I do not have love I am nothing. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered...Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:2-8)

Like a snake, the words slither up the stairs, wrapping themselves around me.

"Is she gone?" he asks.

"Yes, she's gone," my mother replies.

They think I've left? I shut down my computer and head for the top of the stairs. The rain beats against the windows silencing my presence in the old farmhouse.

My parents are visiting from Newfoundland. For the first time Dad will be joining our Father's Day church service. My husband and sons left early; I stayed behind to wait for Dad.

"Good," my brother (who had come for the weekend) says. "I faked sleep so that she wouldn't ask me to go to church with them."

"I figured!" Mom exclaimed. "She said she would probably cry the hardest at my funeral if I didn't get saved! How dare she! Who does she think she is?"

My heart hammers in my chest. The angry words continue, hitting me hard with every blow.

"She makes me sick! I have two weeks left and I can't wait to get out of here!"

My father's words cut the deepest. I can't take anymore. My legs, no longer able to support me, give out and I crumble to the floor. I sit there, unable to move, unable to get to my feet, listening to them freely voice their pent-up anger—anger that had been simmering below the surface for two months.

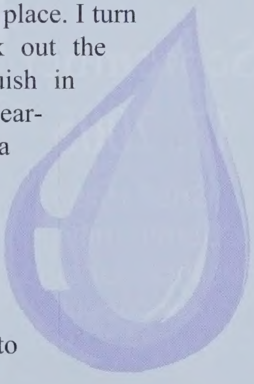
I'll climb out the window. I'll make a ladder with bed sheets. I look at the rain pounding against the thin glass. No, I will have to go down the stairs. *Father, help me to get through this, I pleaded. Help me not to make matters worse than what they already are. Right now, Father, I just want out!* I take a deep breath and clinging to the rail, I pull myself to my feet. The open space at the top of the stairs closes in on me. I need fresh air, I need to get out.

The first person I see is my brother. He is leaning against the door frame between the kitchen and the stairs. His attention swings from the conversation in the kitchen to the stairs and there it freezes. A pang of sadness wells up in me as shock fills his face. I force a smile, walk past him, and enter the kitchen where Dad is sitting and Mom is making breakfast. It is as if I had entered into a still picture where nothing moved. Words hang suspended between them. I stare at them; tears fill my eyes as I struggle not to cry. Taking a deep breath I pick up my shoes and turn to face Dad.

His face goes from shock to anger. Looking back over my childhood, I knew that anger well. It was there when a car struck my sister. It was there when I ran away from home. It was there when I knocked the big oil drum off its perch on to the ground below. All these situations had one thing in common: fear. My sister could have been killed, I could have been picked up by some creep, and the oil drum could have fallen on one of us. I knew that anger well.

"So, Dad, I guess this means you won't be coming to church with me?" I say, my voice deep with emotion. I balance on one leg and then the other to put my sandals on. As I reach for the door the still picture begins to move. Dad seizes my face in his hand and wheels me toward him, "If you leave now you will never see me again." Though his words are angry, his eyes are desperate. I see that fear.

"I guess that's up to you, isn't it Dad?" I respond, fighting back the gush of tears that threaten to take over. Someone seizes hold of my arm and swings me in another direction. I come face to face with Mom. The distress on her face is evident. I know her turmoil; she wishes this morning had never taken place. I turn away and walk out the door. The anguish in my heart is unbearable. I gulp in a deep breath of fresh air. Mom follows, begging me to return, to let her drive me to



the church at least. The heavy rain smacks against me. "No, just leave me alone." My words sound far away to me, like they are coming from the bottom of a deep well.

"You're mad?" Mom asks.

"I make him sick? Sick?" I whisper in disbelief.

"Your father doesn't mean that. You know what he's like." She says this as she pulls the truck beside me.

"My father! What about you? What about the things you said?"

"You know I don't mean it the way it sounded. You're getting wet. Get in!"

"No! I want to walk. I need to walk." With that I begin my five-mile trek down our gravel road to the church. Mom follows alongside in the truck, pleading with me. I keep moving. She finally gives up and returns to the house. I turn and watch the truck disappear over a hill. Depression clings to me like a heavy blanket. I wrap my cold wet arms around myself and hang my head, my long wet hair covering my tear-stained face. I continue my walk. Mud covered and soaked, I enter the church parking lot.

Later that afternoon rain pelts the windows, echoing through the deserted farmhouse. Mud streaks and mud footprints decorate the floor. They scream: No time to stop, have to flee from the cage, this house, and these people. All that remains of my parents is the hurried way in which they left. Bent on my own agenda, I had pushed them away.

"Therefore be careful how you walk." (Ephesians 5:15)

"Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you." (Ephesians 5:1-2)

Angie is from Thedford, Ontario. While managing a busy household and providing home schooling for her two boys, she makes an effort to find time for writing.

Bridging Generation Gaps

September 17, 2005

Crieff Hills Community, Puslinch, Ontario (near Guelph)

Introduce a younger woman to the WMS through a full day workshop.

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Contact Alexis Dimson, Program and Marketing Coordinato
adimson@presbyterian.ca 1-800-619-7301

Life is the greatest journey of all, which takes us down many different roads. Some roads are breathtaking and filled with wonder, while others are dark, and we sometimes fear venturing there.

A Portrait of Grace

Darlene E. Lajeunesse

My journey began on May 23, 1986 when my family was stunned by the news of the death of my aunt's only son, Dougie. A car accident had taken his life. He was 23 years old, and had left behind a wife and young daughter, Jennifer.

To say that I was shocked cannot begin to describe the intensity of my feelings as the news continued to sink into my soul. I felt frozen in time, knowing this moment would be etched in my mind forever. Dougie's death ripped at my heart in a deeply profound way and still does to this day. I watched my aunt grieve his loss for many years, and the depth of her pain was a heart-wrenching experience to witness.

Your story may not be as tragic as this, but no matter what happens in our lives, grief is at the core of our human suffering. Grief's presence will be felt whether we experience losses through death, divorce, failed relationships, career losses, physical difficulties, unfulfilled dreams, or personal disappointments. The good news is that there is someone who sees us wherever we are, and knows our deepest sorrow. The unseen presence of God is always there giving us grace and strength through the power of the eternal Word.

> "Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca [Weeping], they make it a place of springs; the autumn rains also cover it with pools. They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion."
>
> (Psalm 84:5–7, NIV)

When we come to the Valley of Weeping, it leaves us feeling alone and afraid, but go through it we must. It is in this Valley where we can begin to release ourselves from the sorrows and cares of this life. Weeping is an outward expression of our inner grief, and is not to be feared but embraced. It is also extremely important for each of us to find our own way of expressing our individual sorrow. For it is in the pouring out of our deepest emotions that we are able to let go.

When an artist looks at an empty canvas it has no beauty. The beauty only emerges when the hues of colour begin to dance as each stroke of the brush is applied. Our tears may seem like they have no purpose or meaning, but they are painting a beautiful picture as each one falls upon the empty canvas.

When the season of weeping is over, a transformation begins to take place. This change is as dramatic as a butterfly springing from its cocoon, and flying away totally changed from its old life. Our tears will then become a spring of refreshing waters, and a renewed sense of hope will awaken within us like the dawning of a new day.

Zion, our destination, is a metaphor of the Creator's glorious presence. It is here that we find the completeness and fulfillment our souls have longed for. When the final stroke of the brush is applied in our sufferings, it will become a priceless treasure worth more than anything else in this world. For it is here in this journey that we have grown and found strength unknown to us before.

Whatever picture your grief will paint, let it be one of weeping turned into joy and beauty instead of ashes. Let the hues overflow with vibrant colours of praise for God's incredible grace. Then one day the artist of Heaven will display our finished portrait in the heavenly gallery where angels will rejoice over us with singing. We do not have to be strong in ourselves for we can rest upon the strength of God to carry us through the dark places of our lives. Our Protector and Creator will be right there with us all along the way, creating a portrait of grace.

This article is dedicated to those who have made the courageous journey through grief, and whose tears have become a refreshing spring for others to drink from and also find hope.

Darlene is a professional writer, speaker, and an accomplished poet. She has a heart for the renewing grace of God and is a catalyst for spiritual freedom. For speaking engagements, call her at (905) 939-1055 or send an e-mail to darlene_lajeunesse@msn.com.

ESSENCE

Before knowledge began, he was,
And at its ending, he will be.
In its learning, he will act,
Because he has called it forth.

His thoughts
Gain substance,
And his dreams become
The history of the world.

Of him there is awareness,
And, yet, he has no name,
For in a name is a binding,
And none can hold him

Time is not his master,
For he walks, not, its passages.
He inhabits the now,
Forever.

He is all,
He is in all,
He is the essence
That enlivens the void.

Behold him,
And be awed.

Yet, know that he seeks
Always
A heart which
Beats
In rhythm with
His
Own.

Dawn Porter

Self-Esteem: A Major

by Rosina Daillie

What is Self-Esteem?

Self-esteem, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is defined as *"a good opinion of oneself."*

Others define it as:
"It's about liking yourself."
and

"Self-esteem is how we feel about ourselves, and our behaviour clearly reflects these feelings."

How we feel about ourselves or our "sense of self" is a crucial factor that determines our self-esteem. With children, self-esteem is the extent to which they feel loved, accepted, and valued by adults and their peers, who mean a lot to them. The development of a sense of self in children is very complex and it is moulded primarily by the individuals around them. The crucial role of parents and primary caregivers in laying the foundation and shaping a child's sense of self cannot be underestimated—this role begins right from birth and during the formative years, when children derive trustworthiness and confidence from the way they are treated. How children see themselves as they grow up often stems from *what* parents say or *how* parents express feelings to them. As children get older, other individuals around them, such as grandparents, uncles and aunts, siblings, teachers, and friends may contribute in furthering the development of their sense of self. Over the years, the cultural, social, and religious environment and the relationships formed with family members, friends, and teachers that foster a deep sense of trust and love are all contributing factors in strengthening a child's positive and healthy self-esteem.

Suggestions on how to build and enhance self-esteem in children

If self-esteem is one of the critical ingredients to a healthy and successful life, how can parents ensure that children will grow and develop a positive self-esteem? Below are several ways on how to build, nurture, or enhance self-esteem in children:

- **Encouragement:** Words of encouragement are extremely important for children who will retain the positive feelings expressed by those they trust. Encouragement is known to be a tremendous booster for self-esteem. Parents, more often than not, tend to express negative feelings and somehow neglect to stress the positive. Children need to constantly hear that they are loved, valued, and wanted.

- **Be sincere with praise:** Let children know what you feel when they have completed a chore or an assignment, or when they have displayed some talent: "*It's great how neatly you have arranged your room and organized everything. I'm impressed with the care you've taken.*"

"*Your essay was remarkable and well thought out; you have applied yourself extremely well and I'm really proud of you.*"

- **Train children to make positive self-talk:** We all talk to ourselves sometimes but what is important is that we do it in a positive and constructive way. Some examples: "*It's OK if I did not do as well this semester in the maths test. I will try harder during the next semester.*"

"*I will find the solution to this problem if I keep on trying.*"

- **Make constructive criticisms:** Criticizing a child's actions to the point of belittling him or her as a person can be very destructive. Using the "I statements" instead of the "You statements" to make a point is less damaging, such as: "*I would like you to keep all your dirty linen in the laundry basket and not leave them on the floor in the room.*" rather than "*Why are you so untidy and unkempt? Can't you pick all your dirty linen from the floor and put them in the basket.*"
- **Guide children in the decision-making process:** Encourage children to make decisions by providing them with guidance; be ready to acknowledge when they have made good decisions: Parents can help children improve on their decision-making skills in several ways: by analysing and clarifying the problem, brainstorming some possible solutions, having them select one of the solutions after weighing the consequences, and evaluating the results of the solution. Children will gain confidence and be able to act independently when the next decision confronts them.
- **Make children aware of alternative options and possibilities in every situation.** As Alexander Graham Bell has said: "When one door closes, another opens, but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

- **Instill self-discipline in children:** Play the role of coach or teacher and keep in mind the 3 "F's" of discipline—**F**air, **F**irm, and **F**riendly.
- **Be a role model:** Model **skills** that you would like your children to learn, such as reading, how to communicate effectively, etc. and **acceptable behaviours**, for example, kindness, empathy, spirit of sharing and cooperation, good manners, good behaviour towards friends, etc.
- **Teach children that they are responsible for their feelings** and that they are not responsible for the feelings of others. Children should not be blamed for how you may feel as a parent.
- **Emphasize strengths in children and make them aware of their potential.** Children and teenagers who are overweight often develop a poor self image; such situations have to be dealt with delicately by de-emphasizing the physical appearance or body image and focusing instead on the strengths and inner qualities (such as creativity, personality, physical capabilities, etc.) of these children.

"*A child's or parent's preoccupation with a child's weight may damage the child's self-esteem and lead to depression.*" (York Region: Promoting a Healthy Weight in Children.)

- **Teach children about how to face disappointments and/or deal with failures:** In such situations, stress to them that you still love and support them and when the storm has passed, discuss ways in which they can cope with a similar situation/incident in the future. As Winston Churchill has so eloquently expressed: "*Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.*"
- **Spend quality time with your children:** Do things together as a family and as each child is different, parents need to have a "one to one" time (over lunch, dinner, or a walk) with each child regularly. This allows for undivided attention and better communication. Listen to your children and show an interest in what they are saying; respect their opinions and provide lots of encouragement and meaningful feedback. Involve them in making decisions that they can help you with—this will be a terrific opportunity to show them that you admire them. An example: "*You have a great sense of colour coordination. Would you like to help me choose the different colour paints that we can use for the house.*"

Remember: Self-esteem is an important part of every child's development.

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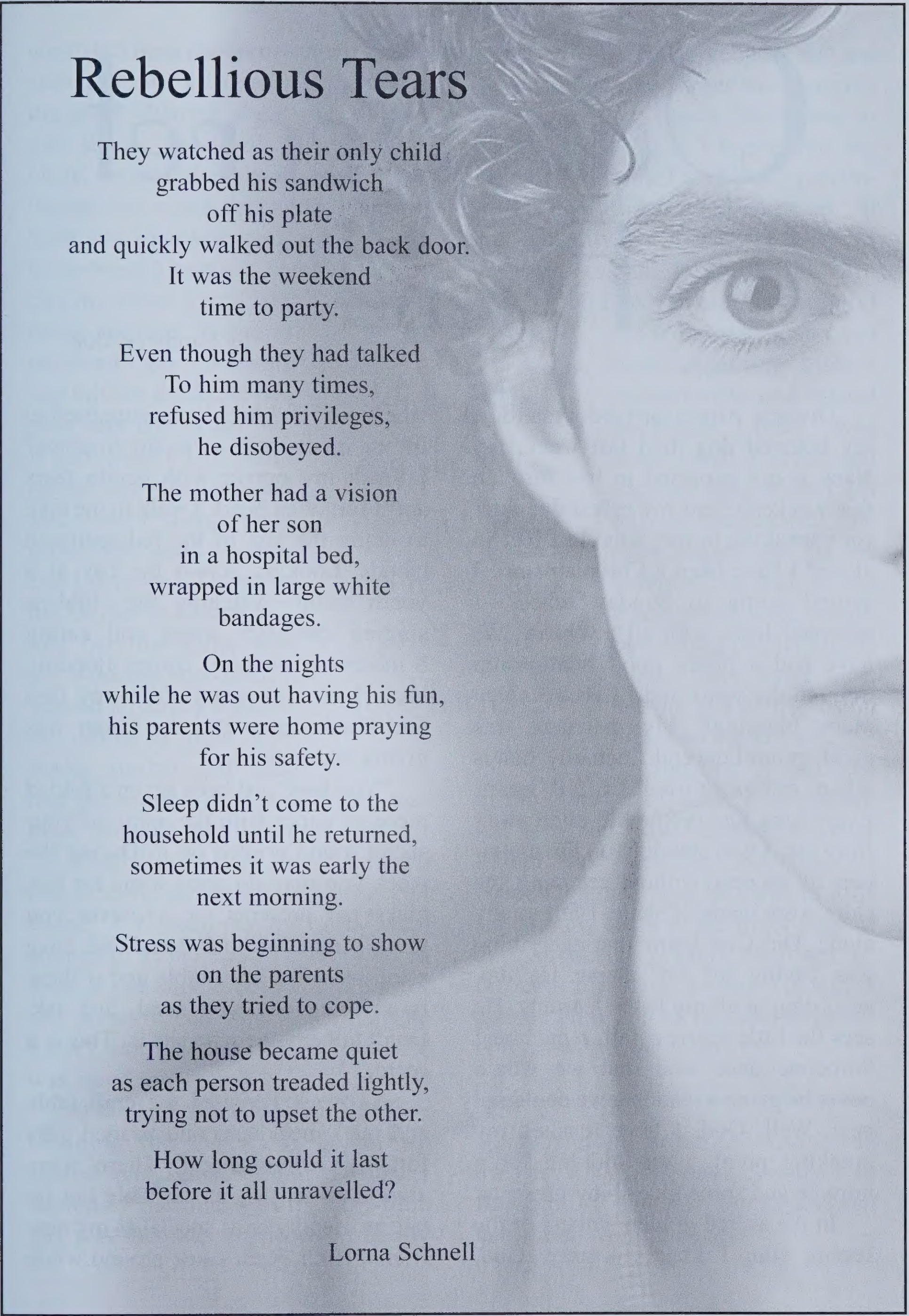
Rebellious Tears



They watched as their only child
grabbed his sandwich
off his plate
and quickly walked out the back door.
It was the weekend
time to party.

Even though they had talked
To him many times,
refused him privileges,
he disobeyed.

The mother had a vision
of her son
in a hospital bed,
wrapped in large white
bandages.

On the nights
while he was out having his fun,
his parents were home praying
for his safety.

Sleep didn't come to the
household until he returned,
sometimes it was early the
next morning.

Stress was beginning to show
on the parents
as they tried to cope.

The house became quiet
as each person treaded lightly,
trying not to upset the other.

How long could it last
before it all unravelled?

Lorna Schnell

Our Secret Friend

by Sandy Hyslop

Divorce papers arrived yesterday, my beloved dog died last week, my Nana is not expected to live through this weekend, and my eldest daughter isn't speaking to me; why do I feel so alone? I have been a Christian since I started going to Sunday school—I accepted Jesus with all my heart. We have had a pretty good relationship through the years and I have received many blessings. My marriage was good up until the end…actually, that is when things started to fall apart. Everything just seemed to slide away from me. I was standing on the mountain of success without realizing the sides were made of shale. I felt totally alone. Did God know that everything was caving in? Of course He did, according to all my Bible learning. He sees the little sparrow fall, remember? Someone once said that we would never be given a load that we could not bear. Well, God, I have reached my breaking point. I am looking for a miracle and some nice shiny presents.

In the sacred golden embers of the setting sun, I kneel to pray. God, where are you? Aren't you supposed to lift me up and take away my troubles? I finish my prayer with gentle tears and a forgotten heart. I walk to the lake to enjoy the last of the red-spattered clouds. Looking across the bay at a youth camp—watching the children singing campfire songs and eating S'mores—a memory comes flooding back. I was ten years old at my first Girl Guide camp and the leader was giving instructions.

"You have just been given a folded piece of paper with the name of your secret friend printed on it. During the week you may do good turns for her, make her presents, or whatever you think is nice for your friend. We have a fully-stocked craft table and if there is anything else you need, just ask. Don't tell anyone who she is. This is a secret."

All week I visited the craft table and made necklaces and beaded gifts for my secret friend. There were always other girls at the table but no one as friendly or as special as my new friend, Ruth. Ruth came around when she didn't have chores or other program activities. We sat together playing in the glue, chatting about our siblings and things we liked about school. Okay, we talked about boys too. Even though she was a year older than me, Ruth and I became inseparable. Early in the week I began to complain to her that my secret friend hadn't done anything for me. I hadn't received any presents and I didn't think she had done any chores for me. It just wasn't fair! Ruth patted my shoulder and said that I didn't need gifts—just good friends. But I persisted; I went to the Guider in charge and told her this game was not working very well. I wanted a painted rock on my pillow at night. The leader smiled and said that the support of a good friend was more valuable than a painted rock.

> "Ruth patted my shoulder and said that I didn't need gifts—just good friends."

When Ruth asked me if I would like to spend some time with my secret friend, I refused as the gifts were enough to let her know I cared. I asked Ruth if she should be doing more for her secret friend. She said that she wasn't worried—her friend knew she was cared for.

At the end of the week, just before boarding the buses for home, we shared our secret friend stories. I waited to find out who the lazy little girl was that was supposed to be my secret friend. Ruth stepped up and gave me a hug. Everyone stood around us, holding their breath. The Guider in charge asked me if I knew who my secret friend was. I said that I certainly did not! Ruth smiled and said, "It was me, silly."

Ruth was the best friend I have ever had and I never knew her secret. I felt so ashamed that I had been expecting gifts—painted rocks and beaded necklaces. Ruth was there when I cried and she was there when I fell out of the canoe. She encouraged me to be independent and strong when times were tough. Showering me with gifts would have been nice, but the gift of friendship meant so much more.

Standing by that lake in the glimmer of dusk, I once again felt ashamed. My Dearest Heavenly Father has been my not-so-secret friend all along. Sure he gives us gifts sometimes, but it is the quiet support and answered prayers that get us through the dark times. Tonight I needed Him, and he revealed a memory to show me the truth.

Sandy Hyslop is still a Girl Guide and tries to write full time. She lives in Burnaby, BC with her dog, Keisha and her mischievous computer.

Exploring Taiwan's Presbyterian History:

A Cherished Experience

Kim Arnold, PCC Archivist

This past November I opened my e-mail to find an invitation to visit Taiwan addressed to me and the United Church of Canada Archivist from Professor Yang-en Cheng at Taiwan Theological Seminary in Taipei. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan (PCT) wanted us to advise them on the care of their historic records and also to help plan their new denominational archives facility.

In 1997 a symposium was held at Victoria University, Toronto, to honour Rev. Dr. George Leslie Mackay, the first Presbyterian missionary to Taiwan. People attended this symposium from across Canada, the United States, and Taiwan. Dr. Cheng later returned to Toronto to visit the Archives at Wynford Drive to research mission history relating to Taiwan. Other Taiwanese delegates had come back on official church visits and had toured both denominational archives on those occasions. Whenever we met with them, they expressed their desire for a more professional church archives in Taiwan. This year was their year to do just that. A flurry of planning began for us in December as the PCT wanted us to travel there as soon as possible. So, on January 2, we found ourselves at Pearson Airport at midnight ready to embark on our 26-hour journey.

At Taipei airport, we hoped to see a friendly face (from the PCT) holding a sign with our names on it. When we arrived at 5:00 a.m., we found ourselves looking into a sea of signs with names on them—but, sadly, not ours. I noticed a gentleman sitting a distance away with a piece of paper in his hand. When he stood up I glanced over only to see the name "Kim" on the paper. Relief! This was Rev. Yasala Hola, a senior staff member of the PCT office in Tainan and our trusty companion and interpreter for much of our two-week stay. A few days later, he confessed that because we were considered "directors" of archives in North America, he had automatically assumed that we would be men, thus the confusion at the airport.

As with most work-related trips, there were many professional events, but our hosts were also sensitive to our need to sometimes just be tourists. The PCT asked us to deliver two workshops, in Tainan and Taipei, to local

Kim Arnold touring a night market

Oxford College, Alethia Christian University

church representatives on the subject of caring for congregational records. These workshops were well attended and, I believe, quite well received. We toured the historic Taiwan Theological Seminary in Tainan where James and Lillian Dickson and their family served for many years. It was very special to see Canadian Presbyterians memorialized in statuary as we travelled around the northern part of the island. Evening entertainment while in Tainan included a visit to a colourful folk religious temple and a look into the world of a night market. No, we did not attend a market that featured famed snake soup, but ours did happen to offer fried sandworms served in a take-away cup—for those with an adventurous nature.

We drove further north to Tamsui on a warm, sunny day to see Mackay's school, Oxford College, now part of the very modern Alethia Christian University. The University is set on a hill, strewn with verdant gardens, overlooking picturesque Tamsui Harbour. This was also home to our missionaries Rev. Jack and Betty Geddes for many years. Oxford College houses an extensive collection of Mackay family photographs and memorabilia—including Dr. Mackay's personal journals. All items are being copied for preservation purposes and meaningful archival contacts were forged on this visit.

We attended our first "audience" with a church dignitary—this time with the president of the University. These audiences were formal experiences with long-established protocol. As a guest, you had to wait in a sitting room and you are served Oolong tea; the photographer for the event would arrive, and then the dignitary and entourage would enter complete with an interpreter. Our hosts were welcoming and grateful that we had travelled such a long way to see them because of our shared church history. This was very humbling to us as we felt honoured to be their guests.

We walked through the property to Tam Kang Middle School—where we had a tour of the facility, saw the burial grounds of the Mackay family, and enjoyed a lunch with faculty. In Tamsui we also saw Mackay's first church and the medical clinic where he performed thousands of tooth extractions. We toured the waterfront and enjoyed *bubble* tea before being driven to the airport to fly south to Tainan.

Agnes Huang, Chang Jung University's Librarian, met us and was our interpreter while in Tainan. A thoughtful host, she was keen to have us experience a traditional hot-pot style dinner before retiring that night. Our time in Tainan was busy: conducting a workshop, lunching with the President of the University, assessing the University library as the new home for the PCT Archives, and meeting with Church and University officials regarding the plans and budget for this renovation. We toured the beautiful Chang Jung Christian School and the PCT Archives collection, which is currently housed there. Later that day we visited Tainan Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian Church News office. An illustrated story recording the purpose of our visit even made it into their newspaper!

From Tainan, we were driven to Changhua and the Changhua Christian Hospital—a large modern facility where nurse and missionary, Joy Randall, served. They had developed a well-designed Museum at the Hospital for educational purposes. Here again, we had an audience with the Superintendent of the Hospital and enjoyed lunch with him and his wife, the Museum Curator, and Chaplain. By this point in the trip, I was becoming a little more adept at managing conversation and chopsticks simultaneously.

That same day we flew to Yu-Shan Aboriginal Seminary located in gorgeous Hualien, a resort town set amidst volcanic mountains in the north east. While there David Chen, the Librarian, was our interpreter. We worshipped with the students, toured the Library, and met with the woman who was taking a leadership role in creating oral history among the aboriginal Christians of the area. They also kindly provided a tour of nearby Taroko Gorge, a spectacular geographic area famous for its marble mines.

Following our return to Taipei by train, we toured the George Leslie Mackay historical exhibit within the world-class Mackay Memorial Hospital, taught a church history class on the care of historical records at Taiwan Theological Seminary, spent time with Yasala and his family at local museums, and had dinner with the very gracious Rev. William Lo, General Secretary of the PCT.

It is difficult to sum up a trip of a lifetime. It was a learning experience for both sides. The PCT gathered much information about records management but we left with a new understanding of life in a far away land. Yet, this does not mean we are different from one another as despite our lack of Taiwanese and Mandarin, we communicated just fine. Most important is the gift of having established new contacts and friendships. Surely, that is the best souvenir of all.

WMS President's Itinerary 2005
Margaret McGillivray

March 29–April 3: Attended Alberta and the Northwest Synodical.

April 5–18: Travelled with Executive Director Rev. Sarah Kim to China on the invitation of the Christian Churches in China and the People's Republic of China.

May 1–4: Annual Council meeting at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre.

May 5: Orientation for trip to Japan.

May 12: Regional Staff Meeting at St. Andrew's Church, Brampton, Ontario.

May 25: Talk on the China trip to Huron-Perth Presbytery at Brussels Church, Ontario. (WMS groups in the area will be invited too!)

June 5–9: General Assembly in Edmonton.

June 15–27: Korean Christian Church in Japan and WMS exchange trip to Japan.

Caribbean and Canadian Christians Join in Mission

Fall 2005 will see an exciting mission initiative taking place in Toronto. A team of four mission volunteers (two from North America and two from the Caribbean) will be working to support the local outreach of ecumenical groups in the Jane-Finch and Malvern areas. The focus of the outreach is youth—especially those with roots in the Caribbean. Several Presbyterian congregations (University Presbyterian in Jane-Finch, and Malvern Presbyterian) are involved in this outreach. This is a program of the Caribbean and North American Council for Mission (CANACOM) of which The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada are members. The team is a Joint Mission Action Team (JOMAT) and will be the third such team planned by CANACOM (the others were in South Carolina and Jamaica). It is hoped that the team will be made up of one volunteer from Guyana, one from Jamaica, and two from Canada. The program begins in early August, and will conclude in December.

For further information, contact International Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada at (416) 441-1111.

"Fine, Thank You"

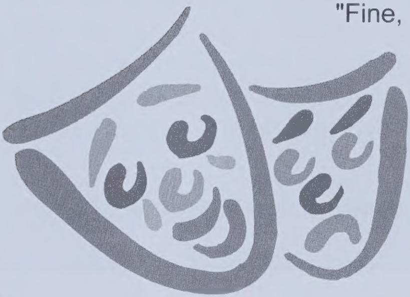
She sits, as she does each morning, compulsively completing the daily crossword,
the Jumble causing the expected grimaces as she reads the pun aloud.
Those answers come quickly, easily, from some other place.
It doesn't really matter, these little successes,
Not when all she is has once more been rejected.
Pain leaks out around her eyelids, flowing unto the paper,
blurring the words.
Sorrow is so very wearying.

It's time to sleep, to pray, to be alone,
To walk with her sadness, the futility, the ache.
To seek the comfort of the living lake is useless.
The ice is solid, impenetrable.
No softly moving waves to ease such deep sadness.

If she were to trudge through the snow at the roadside, body bent,
suddenly old, fragile,
Trailing her sadness like a dissolving scarf,
Those tears would start again, pushing out,
flowing down cheeks no longer tight,
pooling on chin, no longer firm,
lost in melting snow crystals.

Should someone greet her, the shoulders would straighten,
tissues would gather the evidence,
absorbing her inside-out emotions,
Her response to the friendly "How are you?"—

"Fine, thank you."



Patricia Anne Elford

HIV/AIDS Epidemic Calls Church to Neighbourly Actions

by Charlotte Gott

During the last three months in Malawi, I have seen more suffering than I ever saw in the United States. Much of this is a result of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

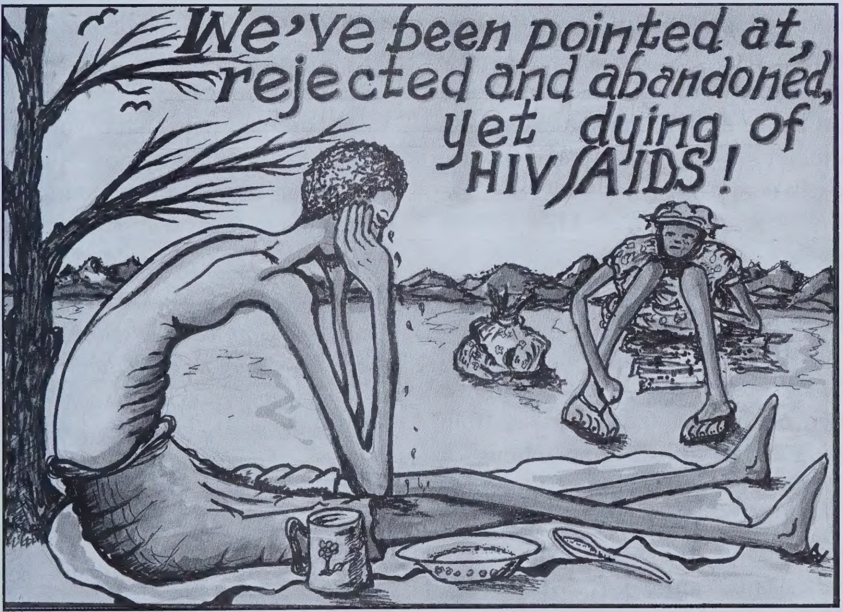
It has been difficult to know how to respond as a Christian to this suffering. But Jesus shows us how—by loving our neighbour.

Jesus tells us how in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Samaritans were despised by Jews and considered outcasts, so it is very interesting that Jesus chose a Samaritan as the shining example of what a neighbour is, in contrast to the "holy" men in the story.

If our neighbour is HIV-positive and is left half-dead alongside the road, will we cross to the other side because we are uncomfortable or think we are too holy? Or will we stop to care for him?

It is time to speak of love when we speak of HIV/AIDS. As Christ came to save and not to condemn, we are also called, not to condemn, but to love our neighbour.

I have seen a 14-year-old girl who suffered all her life with HIV being helped to walk by her mother, who is


We've been pointed at, rejected and abandoned, yet dying of HIV/AIDS!

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance poster campaign
Artist: Andrew Benga Artist Category: Youth Country: Sierra Leone

also HIV-positive. Everyone else had turned away. That girl is dead now and her mother has no one.

I heard of a pastor who refused to marry couples who were HIV-positive. As children of God, we cannot turn away from millions of our neighbours who are suffering with this disease.

In Jesus' time those who were diagnosed with leprosy had to wear a bell around their necks or they had to shout, "Unclean!" so that people could hear the alarm and run away. Today many are putting that bell on those who are HIV-positive.

"**Many of those living with HIV/AIDS are suffering, not just physically, but also spiritually.**"

We now have medicines that will help to prolong the lives of HIV-positive persons, but we do not have a cure. Those with HIV are going to die (just as we all will die someday). But although we cannot cure the disease we can cure hearts.

We can respond to our HIV-positive neighbours in a way that reveals the love of Christ. We can be a vessel by which Jesus can cure a heart.

Perhaps our hearts need to be cured as well. Perhaps our hearts need to be cured of the fear that keeps us from loving our HIV-positive neighbour.

We love because God first loved us (1 John 4:19). But somehow we don't believe, as the Bible says, that perfect love casts out all fear. As we respond to that perfect love, we can cast out the fear that prevents us from being the loving people of God.

Many of those living with HIV/AIDS are suffering, not just physically, but also spiritually. Do we recognize them as our neighbours in need? Jesus would not cross to the other side of the road!

When a man with leprosy came to him, Jesus was filled with compassion. He reached out his hand and touched him (Mark 1:40–45).

We are also called to reach out and touch those who are suffering with HIV/AIDS. Perhaps they just need to know that someone cares. Maybe they need someone to pray with them, or invite them to church, or tell them about Christ.

When you encounter your HIV-positive neighbour, show that you care, even if you are uncomfortable. Reach out to them with your hand. Do not cross to the other side of the road.

Charlotte Gott is a mission volunteer working as a nurse at Mulanje Hospital in southern Malawi. This article was adapted from a sermon preached at an ecumenical gathering in preparation for the International AIDS Conference in July 2004.

First published in Highlights *(Winter 2005) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Reprinted with permission.*

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF ODIOUS DEBT

"Odious debts are those contracted against the interest of the population of a state, without its consent and with the full awareness of the creditor."[1]

Sometimes countries incur debts that can be classified as illegitimate or odious. This would be the case when a dictatorial power incurs a debt to strengthen its despotic regime to oppress its people. Such debts are considered not legally binding.

Debts that cannot be repaid without harming people and communities could also be odious. Sub-Saharan African countries, desperately in need of funds to combat HIV/AIDS, cannot be expected to pay US$3–$4 billion in debt service.

Debts may become unpayable due to factors beyond the debtors' control. The falling price of coffee (66% between 1997 and 2001) reduced the ability of many countries to service their debts. This situation should allow a nation to suspend debt payments on the ground of *force majeur.*[2]

How can the global community help? Many organizations are calling for the establishment of an international debt arbitration tribunal that could automatically issue a stay on debt payments, while it hears the case of a country. This ensures the continuation of essential services for health, safety, and the well-being of its people.

It is Time for Justice! The General Assembly will urge the federal government to "take a leadership role in establishing a ... tribunal ... and to support the development of measures to adjudicate appeals for cancellation of other types of odious debt."

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1 The Centre for International Sustainable Development Law at McGill University proposes this definition of odious debt.

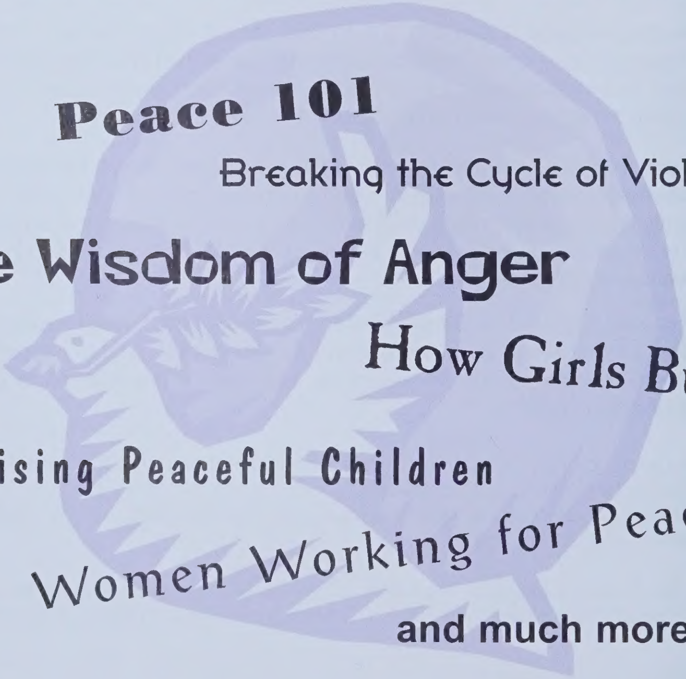
2 *Force majeur* refers to the legal doctrine stating that external factors can make it impossible to fulfill a contract.

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 130th General Assembly, June 2004. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2004.

Text: Dineke Kraay   Editing & Design: Gail Turner

Publishing for Peace

A 2001 United Nations Resolution established September 21 as the annual International Day of Peace. To help celebrate Peace Day in 2005, the July/August 2005 issue of *Glad Tidings*, the official magazine for the Women's Missionary Society, will be an ecumenical issue on peace. *Lutheran Woman Today* (published by Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), *Response* (published by United Methodist Women of the United Methodist Church), *Horizons* (published by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and *Glad Tidings* will offer shared inspirational stories and ideas about working for peace on local, national and, international levels. Some of the articles in this issue will include:



Peace 101

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

The Wisdom of Anger

How Girls Bully

Raising Peaceful Children

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and much more

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Please mail your completed survey to:
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1. When you receive *Glad Tidings*, what do you read first? Which section/column?

2. What percentage of the magazine do you read? (Please circle one)

   Less than 25% 25%–50% 50%–75% More than 75%

3. Is there a section of the magazine that you find useful or that you particularly enjoy?

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5. What would you like to see more of in the magazine?

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Please indicate which province/state you reside in:

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Promotional copies of *Glad Tidings* may be obtained by contacting Katherine Allen, Circulation Manager.

Reconciliation and Forgiveness: Looking Afresh at an Ever-Present Challenge

by Hugh McCullum

Is reconciliation possible? What does forgiveness mean, and what is needed for it to happen when the offence was a frightful one and the pain insurmountable? These and other fundamental questions will be part of the themes treated at the next Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME).

It is an incredible story communicating shock and horror. It is a story of extreme trauma and violence. It is a story of rape.

A young Taiwanese girl was raped and murdered in one of those gut-churning, inexplicable events that leave parents and friends in deep trauma, demanding more justice than even the law can provide.

The mother was totally distraught and, as the months went by, the depth of her pain grew. But then she learned that the murderer and rapist had been caught, arrested, tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. The crime had been solved and dealt with, yet the grieving mother was left outside the process. She developed a profound need to confront the killer and, through an organization called Prison Fellowship (PF) Asia, she met the prison authorities where the killer was awaiting death. It was not easy. The authorities feared her revenge in this explosive situation but eventually relented, though the meeting would be behind bars.

The emotion was intense. She repeatedly told the killer of her sleepless nights, her disturbed emotions, and the excruciating pain she felt since the rape and vicious killing of her daughter. She was desperate to know: "Why did you do it? How did you do it?" She wanted exact and graphic details. She got nowhere; the condemned man said nothing, his eyes expressionless, lips pressed into silence.

They met several times, each time with a representative of PF Taiwan, a Christian organization, part of New Start Ministries based in Singapore. Something was happening. Why did the mother go back when she was almost torn apart by his cold, uncaring appearance? He seemed so distant, always protected by prison bars. Who knows for sure why she continued to visit the prison? PF Taiwan says she was leading him to repentance and confession.

One day, as the mother stood outside the barred room, she saw tears. Then, an outpouring of regret and remorse. If anything, her torment increased until her church teachings led her to accept his repentance and she, as a believer, knew that she had to offer her forgiveness. He was young, an orphan, raised in various homes without love and parental caring.

Soon they were meeting without bars. She managed to convince the authorities to allow her to adopt this murderer and rapist of her daughter as her own son. He agreed, and she reached out to hug her new son. They embraced for a long time and, witnesses say, cried for many minutes. She faithfully visited him every day, bringing him home-cooked food, clothes, and personal items. They were genuinely reconciled. On the day after her last visit, he was hanged according to the laws of Taiwan.

The Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME)

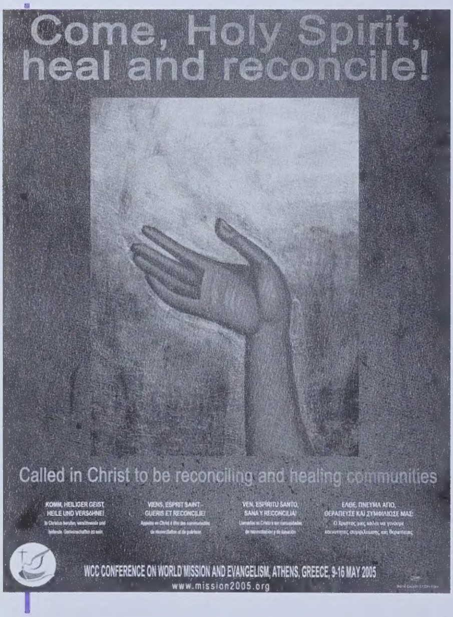
To be held in Athens at the invitation of the Church of Greece, this is a major international meeting of more than 500 representatives from all continents and all major churches and denominations. Scheduled to take place from May 9–16, 2005, the conference is being organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The main aim of the conference is to provide a space for Christians and churches to exchange their experience, and set priorities in mission and the future of Christian witness. The conference seeks to empower participants to continue to form healing communities in celebration and witness, reconciliation, and forgiveness.

The theme of the conference "Come Holy Spirit, heal and reconcile!" is a reminder that this mission does not belong to us, but is the mission of God, who is present and active as the Holy Spirit in churches and throughout the world.

Coming from WCC member churches and the Roman Catholic Church as well as Pentecostal and Evangelical churches and bodies, the participants include young people, women and men working at the frontiers of Christian witness, church and mission leaders, theologians, and missiologists.

There have been 12 such ecumenical mission conferences since 1910. This will be the first time that such a conference is held in a predominantly Orthodox context. Web site: www.mission2005.org


Come, Holy Spirit, heal and reconcile!
Called in Christ to be reconciling and healing communities
KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HEILE UND VERSÖHNE!
VIENS, ESPRIT SAINT – GUERIS ET RECONCILIE!
VEN, ESPIRITU SANTO, SANA Y RECONCILIA!
ΕΛΘΕ, ΠΝΕΥΜΑ ΑΓΙΟ, ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΣΕ ΚΑΙ ΣΥΜΦΙΛΙΩΣΕ ΜΑΣ!
WCC CONFERENCE ON WORLD MISSION AND EVANGELISM, ATHENS, GREECE, 9-16 MAY 2005
www.mission2005.org

Rediscovering the Ministry of the Spirit

This is one of many true stories from all over the world that have been fed into the preparations for the World Council of Churches Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), to be held from May 9–16, 2005. The theme "Come Holy Spirit—heal and reconcile" challenges the ecumenical movement to be "called in Christ to be reconciling and healing communities." The conference will take place in Athens at the invitation of the (Orthodox) Church of Greece.

We Can Help

by Betty Siverns

Joanne serves in a small rural charge in northern Alberta. The distance to the nearest town is far and the weather is cold most of the year. When Joanne, who is a Korean Presbyterian minister, discovered that there were other Koreans in the area she visited them. Many did not speak English and had no access to church services in their own language so Joanne began a ministry for the Korean folk in their own language. There were no materials except what she had of her own. She especially needed hymns written in Korean. She could write the words, but did not know how to share them with the congregation.

Enter the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). Joanne asked the WMS for enough money to purchase a projector and screen that could be used in both English and Korean congregations for projecting hymns and many other things.

Another example, Charles meets every Saturday with a small group of Congolese Presbyterians to worship God in *Tshiluba*, their native language. Lacking the funds to purchase enough hymn books, he approached the WMS through a member of his Presbytery. Again the **Christian Literature Committee** was able to help. The WMS approved the recommendation of the Christian Literature Committee to provide funds for this request.

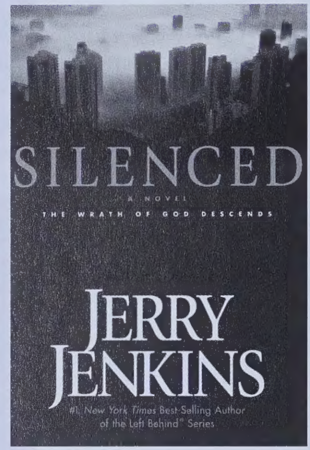
Today, both congregations are benefiting from the newly bought equipment. These are examples of the ways the Christian Literature Committee helps in spreading the gospel message.

If your group/church needs help in order to produce material for an outreach project, please send in a request giving details of your plans, other sources of funding, and any other pertinent information to: Women's Missionary Society, Christian Literature Committee, 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1J7.

Betty Siverns is a member of the **Christian Literature Committee**.
She lives in Langley, BC.

Reviews

***Silenced: The Wrath of God Descends* by Jerry Jenkins, Tyndale House Publishers, $17.95**


SILENCED
A NOVEL
THE WRATH OF GOD DESCENDS
JERRY JENKINS
#1 New York Times Best-Selling Author of the Left Behind® Series

Silenced is a futuristic novel, set in a time beyond our reach, and is the sequel to the novel *Soon: The Beginning of the End*. It is a book of fiction, yet leaves you wondering how fact-based it really is.

Following World War III, the government decides that there will be a global ban on the practice of all religion. Believers are forced underground to practise and share their beliefs, as death is the alternative.

National Peace Organization operative Paul Stepola turns mole for the religious underground, when he regains his sight by what can only be explained as a miracle. By living a double life he works with the underground people to restore God's faith in humankind. No matter what the outcome is for him and his family's lives, he puts his trust in the Lord to make the right decisions.

It is almost like history repeating itself, showing how God's prophets chose to spread His word, no matter what the consequences. Be it floods, disease, fire, or huge tidal waves, God works in mysterious ways. It just goes to show how powerless we are when great disasters happen, and the need in us to believe that everything happens for a reason, and there are no coincidences.

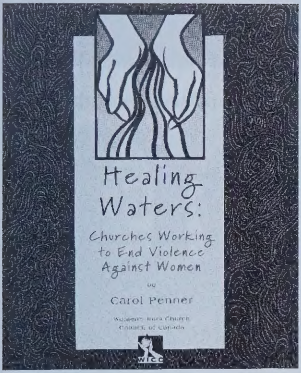
Like I said, this novel is a work of fiction—yet is it? Look around at what has happened recently—how out of complete destruction we pulled together as a whole to help in every way humanly possible. Is it not part of a plan? Take from it what you will, but I can't wait for the next book in the series due out later this year entitled *Shadowed*.

Tracey Percival

***Healing Waters: Churches Working to End Violence Against Women* by Carol Penner, Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, $25.00**

We now know more about violence against women than we did 15 or 20 years ago, but the patterns and stories have not changed. We hear of women being abused and killed in their own homes and we continue to skirt the issue.

Written by Carol Penner and produced by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, this valuable material may be used to educate, train, and



create a safe place for the abused. The stories are real—abuse is clearly defined and careful guidelines are set out for what to do if you know someone who is in an abusive relationship. Theologically, *Healing Waters* deals with suffering, obedience, and forgiveness. These issues can get blurred for victims and also for those around them. Study the material carefully and find a new or renewed understanding.

The end of the package includes resources for worship, workshops, Bible study, and community strategies. In case you are wondering about an earlier document, this is an update of *Hands to End Violence Against Women*, produced in 1988.

I highly recommend this material for study and for ministry in our churches.

Rev. Margaret Robertson
Elmvale and Knox Flos
Presbyterian Churches

Book Competition Winners!

Katherine Campbell
London, ON

Margaret M. Reynolds
Morrisburg, ON

Jonathan Tait
Toronto, ON

Mrs. Douglas Bruce
Wallaceburg, ON

Eva Metler
Wiarton, ON

Our bonus winner is:
Lorraine Loewen
Abbotsford, BC

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who sent in postcards to the *Glad Tidings* Winter Book Competition. Special thanks to Susan Clarke and The Book Room for donating 6 copies of *Landscapes of the Heart* and mailing the winners their copies.

Prayers to Share: Year A by David Sparks, Wood Lake Books, $31.50

Prayers to Share contains responsive prayers for each Sunday of the Church Year. In his preface, David Sparks writes: "To pray, to give thanks and praise to God, who has given us every

continued on page 46

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Mission in Action

Mary Gorombey
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

One of the legacies of communism is the problem of alcoholism. It is estimated that in Romania, where alcohol is widely available, 15 per cent of the population suffers from addiction. In villages, it is easy to produce your own wine or distilled liquor and in cities, wine or liquor are readily available from relatives and friends. If you go to a local restaurant in the city where I work, Cluj-Napoca, and glance at a menu, you will see that a glass of beer is actually cheaper than any soft drink or fruit juice. Alcohol is so prevalent in the culture that it is often difficult for individuals and even professionals treating alcoholics (pastors, medical doctors, etc.) to acknowledge the problem. For example, in congregations where there is a known recovering alcoholic, many pastors refuse to provide an alternative to communion wine. The traditional government-sponsored method of treatment for individuals who suffer from addiction is to sign them into a mental health facility. One organization that offers an alternative is Bonus Pastor Foundation (BPF). It is a Christ-centred ministry that maintains Jesus is the source of all healing—even addiction. The road to recovery is a personal one and Jesus Christ is the One who can stand by an individual day or night, amid temptation and trial. I have seen and spoken to many who have experienced this healing and they have been sober for years and their lives are a testimony of what Jesus has done for them.

Mary Gorombey

BPF was established in Romania 12 years ago. It originally comprised one pastor, Levente Horvath, who had a gift for counselling and a love for individuals suffering from addiction. Slowly this ministry grew by adding staff and establishing centres in several cities in the church district.

Approximately nine years ago, Levente, a visionary dreamer and remarkable servant of the Lord, sought to establish a rehabilitation centre for addicts, but without any funds or experience, how could it be possible? Levente did not let this deter him; he did the best thing, he prayed. One year later, the ministry he established found a castle estate in the remote village of Ozd. Levente felt with conviction that this was what he had been praying for. They approached the local authorities and were able to sign a 99-year lease on the property in 1996. Now that BPF had a venue, did Levente cease praying? Not at all. The castle and the estate were in terrible condition and needed to be renovated and reconstructed; but, with little money in the bank account of a small ministry geographically located in an emerging, unstable economy, how would this be possible? And Levente Horvath prayed and prayed.

In 2002, BPF received a very generous donation and was able to begin construction to convert a granary located on the property into a future rehabilitation centre. By the end of 2004, finances were once again tight. The construction project had quickly consumed the funds in the bank account. My colleagues were worried about how we would complete the rehab centre. And Levente again prayed.

In late 2004, we experienced an extra blessing; the legal title of the property was transferred to the ownership of BPF. Of course, Levente was fervently praying throughout this time.

Here we are in 2005 with the rehab centre completed and scheduled to open on March 16. It is not perfect, there are many things still lacking (e.g., kitchen appliances, furniture, vehicles to help transport clients and staff). An added blessing to this event is that one of our newest addiction counsellors is a recovered alcoholic, who had come to Christ and become sober through the ministry of BPF.

Although my job has been quite limited in this ministry—I regularly attend support groups (I've even led a few), I've helped lead children's camps during the summer for children of alcoholics, and I help out in the office—nevertheless, it has been a challenging

Conversion of granary into Rehabilitation Centre and exciting time. I'm blessed with the privilege to be here. Although at times it doesn't seem like I am contributing much, I know that sometimes it is just enough to be with our brothers and sisters and encourage them in their time of challenge, anxiety, and change.

This is just one ministry that I serve with in Romania as I work with the Reformed Church here.

Please pray for the Bonus Pastor Foundation—for God's continued provision and effectiveness in our work with alcoholics and addicts. Take a moment and think of anyone in your community who is suffering from addiction and try to help him/her.

Brian Johnston
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The Hungarian Reformed Theological Institute is the only place where future pastors of the Reformed Faith can study in Romania. Entering this Institute is no easy task but it is particularly difficult for girls. If there are 12 places for boys, there may only be one for girls.

I asked my advanced students to create a fictional heroic story and I was most impressed with this story written by Nagy Emese—a first year student at the institute where I teach. My students and I send greetings to all the Canadians who continue to support my mission activities here in Romania.

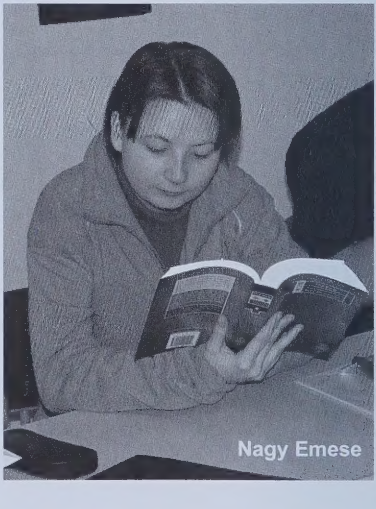
God's Blessings,
Brian Johnston

Once upon a time there was a 17-year-old girl named Isem. She was nice and quite smart, but not very brave.

One day, when she was with the sheep on the field, Isem saw a light on a tree. She went over to the tree and a voice said, "You are the chosen one, my child. Now go! You must kill three dragons, then you will become a shepherd but you will take care of people not sheep. I will be with you."

"I can't do this! I am only 17 years old. How can I kill dragons? I'm alone." When the girl said these words something fell down from the sky. It was a small black book and on it was written the word *Bible*. The book opened and a voice said, "I am your Mentor. Do not be afraid, just believe! I will be with you on your way."

So Isem took the Bible and started her heroic journey. First, she had to kill the dragon called *Graduate*, which had two big heads. This dragon was sitting


Nagy Emese

Overseas Staff Birthdays

August

9 - Ken Kim, Guatemala
9 - Paul McLean, Canada/Taiwan
29 - Mona Barsoum, Canada/Cyprus

September

7 - David Villalonga, Nicaragua
14 - Michael Lessard-Clouston, Japan
16 - Arlene Onuoha, Nigeria
16 - Denise van Wissen, Nicaragua
27 -Clara Henderson, U.S.A./Malawi

by the entrance of a huge castle that had three entrances. Isem—with the help of a blue sword–killed the dragon and went to the second door where the dragon called *Entrance Exam for Theology* was. This dragon had five heads: one Hungarian, another English, Bible Knowledge, Music, and Catechism. This dragon was stronger than the one before. But Isem slowly cut their heads off one after the other.

After that she went to the third entrance where she found the biggest and strongest dragon. Isem was afraid and said, "I can't do this. I'm very tired."

But the Bible said, "You have strength in God! You can do it! Don't give up!"

Isem took the sword and started to fight the last dragon called *Final Exam to Become a Minister*. This dragon had many heads and the biggest problem was that after Isem had cut one head, another appeared in its place. Isem started to cry. She was fed up with everything and she screamed. And then a miracle happened. After Isem screamed, all of the heads of the dragon fell off and the third door opened. A voice said, "You have finished your journey Isem! Now you will become a pastor. Here is your reward." Angels brought over a box and exclaimed, "This box is filled with love, faith, hope, and strength. These are the gifts you have to share with people. Now go and do not be afraid, just BELIEVE!"

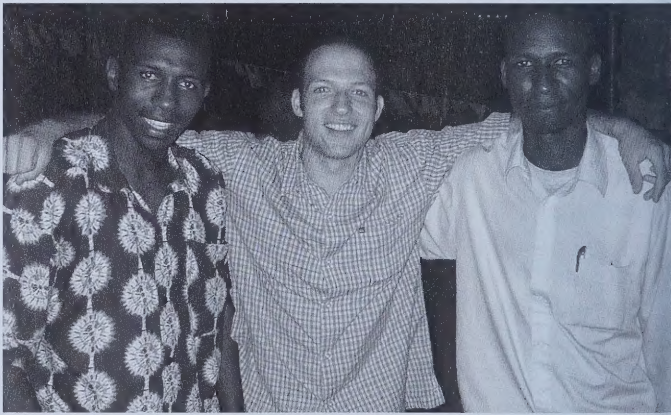
Isem went away, back to the ordinary world and she shared all her gifts with people and became an angel of the Lord.

by Nagy Emese, First year student

Brad Morrice
Tanzania, Africa
Campus Crusade for Christ Mission Trip
Carleton University, Ottawa

When you hear the word "missionary" a variety of images likely spring to mind—like the renowned apostle Paul, shipwrecked and starving, marooned on some forsaken island, all for the sake of the gospel. Or maybe Peter, fearlessly preaching the name of Christ in Rome, knowing all the while that the task would eventually cost him his life. Or more recently, Dr. David Livingstone who paved the way through the African interior for countless missionaries to follow, while bravely enduring the disease and sickness that ravaged his body. Chances are, you don't think of an ordinary college student when you hear the word missionary. But I would like to challenge the conventional idea of a missionary by sharing with you how God used an ordinary student to do extraordinary things.

I had not even been a Christian for a year when I felt God calling me to missions. I was convinced God had somehow gotten His wires crossed; surely He had mistaken me for someone else! After receiving Christ in June of 2003, barely six months later an opportunity arose with a Christian club on campus to travel to Tanzania, Africa for a mission trip. I dismissed the idea. I was far too inexperienced, far too new of a Christian for such a task. But try as I might, I simply could not get the idea out of my head! Africa beckoned me everywhere I went; it was in my dreams, in the sermon at Church, and in the songs I was listening to. No matter what I did, God was saying "Go." Finally, after weeks of resisting, I signed up for the trip and in a few short months I had touched down in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Little did I know how dramatically this trip would change my life. The first month of the six-week long trip consisted of campus ministry at the most prominent university in the country. Our chief aim was to encourage a Christian movement that could set the campus aflame for Jesus Christ. The logic was that if we could see the future leaders of the country become Christ-centred labourers, it would have a snowball effect that could ultimately change not only Tanzania, but all of Africa as well. However, I thoroughly doubted that I could contribute to this lofty goal in any way. How faithful God was to use me despite my doubts! I never could have predicted the things I would see. After a couple days of orientation and evangelism training, we were thrust onto the campus and began meeting students and sharing with them the good news of Jesus Christ. On the very first day, my partner and I were hanging out with a young Tanzanian named Henry. As we got to



Brad Morrice (centre)

know each other, it became clear that Henry and I were strikingly similar. He was struggling with the same lifestyle of alcohol and drugs that I had given up not one year ago. I began to share with Henry the amazing change that had occurred in my life and the freedom Jesus Christ acquired for me by his death on the cross. I caught myself by surprise: Where were these words coming from? After an hour of honest discussion and soul searching, Henry declared that he wanted to experience the same love that he said was so evident in our lives. Fighting back tears at the intensity of it all, the three of us prayed together and Henry asked Jesus Christ to be his personal Saviour. We gave him a Bible and made arrangements to meet again shortly. Over the course of the next four weeks, I had the enormous privilege of discipling Henry in his new faith, and was consistently amazed at how quickly he was growing in his Christian walk. Henry would excitedly tell us about the amazing response he got when he told his non-Christian friends about Jesus, and was even encouraging them that they too could have a personal relationship with God! It was one of the most humbling experiences of my life. I am thrilled to report that Henry's story is only one of many that I was blessed to take part in. In fact, in the four weeks of the campus ministry, our team of 32 students from across Canada saw over 300 Tanzanian students decide to follow Jesus. Just think of the impact these future world-changers will have on their country for Christ!

As the four weeks of campus ministry came to an end, we began to prepare ourselves for the next segment of the trip. For the final two weeks, the group was to split into seven teams to travel to remote villages on the outskirts of the country. Our aim was to show the *JESUS* film, translated in Swahili, to the rural villagers on giant projector screens set up in the village square. As you might imagine, this task provided a whole new array of difficulties and challenges. For one, we would no longer be able to communicate! While most students at the University were well-versed in English, people in these outlying areas spoke Swahili almost exclusively, meaning we had to rely on local translators. While the task seemed formidable, I had learned enough from the previous

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Readers Write

A Name ... A Memory ... A Wave of Gratitude

While reading *Glad Tidings* recently, I recognized the name of one of the writers as someone who, years ago, would regularly write to us during our years of ministry in Japan. Those first years of struggling to learn the language and adjust to life among the Koreans and Japanese were often lonely. How we appreciated the letters and prayers of our faithful supporters in Canada!

In 1967, after finishing language study and moving from Japan to Korea and back again, we finally moved into a traditional Japanese house in a small community. I was soon obviously pregnant—a universally understood and approved phenomenon! Then Bruce was born. Exciting? Yes, but for a while I was a little uneasy, having no experience in looking after babies.

Then a flood of congratulatory cards began to arrive from Canada! A further surprise arrived—a huge box with an unknown return address. Puzzled, we opened it and discovered that it was full of delightful baby items, many of which were hand-knitted. The card inside said that their women's group had held a baby shower for wee Bruce! We were thrilled and delighted as we pictured this group gathered around celebrating Bruce's birth, and recognizing how much we missed the presence of family and friends at home.

You are probably wondering what woman's group was so kind and creative. Unfortunately, so am I!! Over the years their name has slipped my mind and I am hoping that some reader will suddenly say to themselves, "That was us!" and write to us at 213 Birkdale Road, Scarborough, Ontario, M1P3R9, or send us an email: glendavis@auracom.com.

During our 15 years in Japan we were deeply blessed, kept healthy, and learned so much! We often felt that the many people in our churches at home were partners with us as they faithfully prayed for our family, our Japanese neighbours, and our new brothers and sisters in the Korean Church.

Baby Bruce, and two years later, Mark, became wonderful communication links with both our community and church. The boys were loved and enjoyed, which in turn helped us to reach out, develop some close relationships, and share the reason for our presence there—the message of Christ's love. Thank you, readers of *Glad Tidings*, for the many ways in which you share in the partnership of the gospel!

Joyce Davis

Dear Editor:

I felt the need to contact you in response to the Jan./Feb. 2005 issue of *Glad Tidings*. I am aware that in very small print there is a disclaimer at the front of the magazine with regard to reviews. I am still, however, disappointed that June Stevenson was given a forum to promote the writings of Tom Harpur. I have read some of his material in the *Toronto Star* and I am quite disturbed by

In Memoriam

Isabella Tytler Hunter

Presbyterian Church Archives (Ref. #G-3187-FC)

Isabella Tytler Hunter, aged 99 years, passed away on January 5, 2005 at Roseview Manor in Thunder Bay, Ontario. Isabella was born on February 17, 1905 in St. Andrews, Scotland to David and Mary Hunter. At about the age of eight, Isabella came to Fort William where her father started a bakery. She attended Ogden Street School and Fort William Collegiate where she obtained a certificate in secretarial skills. She entered Ewart College in Toronto in 1928 to be trained as a Deaconess in The Presbyterian Church in Canada. She did congregational work in Winnipeg before returning to Toronto to work at Church headquarters. In 1947 she went to India to work as Secretary to the Director of the Mission Hospital in Lahore. She learned several of the dialects and travelled extensively throughout India. After returning home in 1953 she continued to work for the Church in several capacities, until she retired in 1970. Having gone through the chairs of the Women's Missionary Society, she became president from 1978 to 1981. This required her to travel worldwide visiting mission stations, schools, and hospitals. She returned to Thunder Bay about 15 years ago to be closer to her sister Annie. She is survived by her nephews Ian Hunter of White Rock, BC and Daniel Hunter of Vancouver; a niece Gloria M. Alcock of Kenora; two great nephews Gordon Hunter of Kenora and Ian Patrick Hunter of Edmonton; a great niece Kate Hunter lately of Hamburg, Germany; a great, great nephew Aaron; and a great, great niece Deanna, both of Edmonton.

Reader's Write

his theology. I think it is quite a departure from Christianity and I am disappointed that June feels the need to recommend his books. She says we have an obligation to search for our own truth. As I understand it, there is only one truth, not many. Anyway, I am not a biblical scholar but do feel troubled in spirit at what I have read. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Yours in Christ,
Nancy Millar

Presbyterial

The women who attended the annual meeting of the **Brockville** Presbyterial at Knox Church, Morrisburg, Ontario enjoyed the entertaining morning speaker, the informative afternoon panelists, and the fellowship of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) members from six auxiliaries. President Catherine Blatch conducted the meeting on the theme *Witnessing Through Christian Unity*.

The morning speaker was Leisel Bartlett, a translator and linguist with Wycliffe Bible Translators. This organization works to provide Scriptures to those who do not have them in their native language. She and her husband have spent most of their time working in northern Quebec, 500 miles north of Montreal, translating the Bible into the Cree language. The project there started in 1974 and was completed and dedicated in 2001. It took many years of hard work, first working with the Cree people themselves, and then with other linguists and Bible scholars, to complete the translation.

Leisel spoke of the Wycliffe vision: "By the year 2025 a Bible translation project will be in progress for every group that needs it." Leisel and her husband are now supervisors for Canadian Translations, and there are currently 11 active translation projects in progress.

The afternoon panel, moderated by Margaret Reynolds, consisted of three women: the Pastoral Care co-ordinator for the Winchester District Hospital, the co-ordinator of the Dundas County Hospice, and a member of Alcoholics Anonymous. Each panelist spoke passionately about the work of their organization and asked that we support each of their groups with our prayers.

All auxiliaries contributed to the Jobat Christian school project last year and the president encouraged each group to continue their support for another year. She emphasized that if we love God and share what we have, we are all doing "mission."

The singing of a hymn, "The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy," along with a prayer given by the president made a fitting conclusion to a most informative and enjoyable day.

Sharing the Good News was the topic of the fall rally of the **Brockville** Presbyterial held at St. Andrew's Church in Chesterville, Ontario. Following the worship service, conducted by members of the Ventnor Auxiliary, Rev. Jim and Brenda Patterson addressed the meeting. Through an interesting PowerPoint presentation, we had an introduction to El Salvador and saw what a typical day for the Pattersons involved—from 3:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

While working in El Salvador, 17 different groups came to visit the Pattersons and they said that the process of watching Canadians come to help people that they did not even know was exciting.

During their five-year stay in El Salvador, the Pattersons learned to struggle *with* the people. Some issues they addressed included: education, gender equality, housing, mental and physical health, nutrition, and social justice issues. Presbyterian World Service & Development made their work in Central America possible, and they expressed how very much they appreciated the prayers and financial support of the WMS.

During a short business meeting, President Catherine Blatch encouraged all auxiliaries to submit their contributions for the India Education Challenge to the presbyterial treasurer.

The **Glengarry** Presbyterial WMS held its annual meeting on January 28 at Kenyon Church in Dunvegan, Ontario. The theme for the meeting was *Christians in Crisis*.

Presbyterial President Joyce Bender welcomed everyone and opened the meeting in prayer. Avonmore WMS presented the worship service and Christine Ball led the Bible study entitled *Creating Peace—Isaiah 65*.

WMS Representative Louise Douglas conveyed greetings from Seaway-Glengarry Presbytery and welcomed everyone to Kenyon Church. Margaret Reynolds, president, Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario, also brought greetings and informed the group that Druse Bryan will be representing the Society on a return visit to Japan in June.

The meeting proceeded with adopting the minutes of the 2003 Annual Report, and the Treasurer's statement as presented. Joyce highlighted the activities of the Presbyterial during the year stating that meetings were well attended and guest speakers were much appreciated. At the spring rally Susan Cleaver spoke of the trip with her youth group to Evangel Hall in Toronto and Jim and Brenda Patterson gave a presentation on their mission in El Salvador. Joyce also thanked Angels bookstore in Cornwall for providing a display of Christian material, such as gifts, music, videos, and books for purchase at each meeting.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of a certificate of recognition and a floral arrangement of appreciation to Shelagh MacDougall for her contributions to her church and the WMS over many years as an active member and particularly for her 18 years as Treasurer of Glengarry Presbyterial.

Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and a delicious lunch before returning home.

The **London** Presbyterial held its 91st annual meeting at St. James North Yarmouth Church on January 20. The theme for the meeting was *Shout for Joy and Gladness*. (Psalm 35:27b)

Forward in Faith

I have some very difficult shoes to fill as I take on from Giollo Kelly the position of Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). Giollo has faithfully served as Treasurer for eight years. Let us give thanks to God for her ministry through the WMS.

As I begin my new duties, my thoughts focus on the responsibilities that I now carry. I accept these responsibilities with fear and trepidation. I covet your prayers.

I have visited Presbyterials and groups and the cost of sending knitted goods has come up on several occasions. There is a temptation for us to compare the value of the knitted goods to the cost of postage. We cannot deny that the mailing costs are high, but we cannot place a value on the wee lives that may be saved or protected from illness as a result of a warm sweater, vest, hat, or blanket. Many have shared what a meaningful project this is both in the giving and in the receiving. Shut-ins feel that they can be involved in this mission project from their homes. Thank you for continuing to knit. During visits to India over the past few years, I learned that the knitted goods are appreciated and used. One doctor said that the amazing thing is that they "keep coming" so there is not the temptation to tuck them away for a rainy day. As I travelled around the Bhil Field I was excited to see the number of children who were warm and cozy because of the sweaters you have knitted. Thank you for caring and sharing!

The final figures for 2004 are now complete. The total amount received from Presbyterials amounted to $685,725. I give thanks to God for the faithful women and men who are committed to supporting the WMS.

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

The morning program included registration by 56 members, a lively sing-along headed by Helen Hoggarth and Eleanor McMillan, and a warm welcome to all by Ida Human, president of London Presbyterial. Rev. Gloria Langlois, minister of St. James Church and WMS President Louise Berry extended greetings to all.

After presenting the reports, Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs led a challenging Bible study. Susan Clarke reviewed several books from The Book Room and she had a large selection of books for sale.

Speaker Joy Randall was introduced by Pauline Lindsay. Joy has spent 35 years in Taiwan as a nurse. Her talk about her time there was very informative.

Special guests were introduced by Winn Files: Gloria Wasacase, Synodical president of Southwestern Ontario; Laural Kenny, president of United Church Woman, London and

Middlesex; Phyllis O'Neil, president, Diocese of Huron, Anglican Church Woman; Bev Weiler, president elect, Diocesan of London Council Catholic Woman's League; and Wilma Welsh, president, Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial.

Wilma gave an update on the situation of the 13 incarcerated men in the Bhil Field and asked for prayers on their behalf.

Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs conducted the installation of officers and Muriel Stavert gave courtesies.

The **West Toronto** Presbyterial held its 91st annual meeting at St. Andrew's Humber Heights Church, Toronto on February 12. The theme for the meeting was *Consider it all Joy*. (James 1:2–3)

Following morning registration and refreshments, President Eleanor Dean welcomed everyone. Rev. Will Ingram, moderator of the Presbytery of West Toronto; Doris McAndless, president of East Toronto Presbyterial; Alexis Dimson, Program & Marketing Coordinator; and Rev. Lynda Reid brought greetings. The women from Bonar-Parkdale Church led the devotions. Soprano Barbara Fris provided delightful renditions of "Amazing Grace" and "The Holy City." Dorothy Clark introduced Lorna Teare who spoke of her experiences during a recent trip to Eastern Europe to visit the work of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and partners in that area.

Following business and approval of the printed reports, the Literature Secretary reported on some offerings from the book table. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and the time to view displays and the book table. After reassembling, Hazel Hutchinson presented an honorary membership to Carol Chinyan (Hazel was last year's recipient). Carolyn Jones presented the report of the Nominating Committee and Rev. Lynda Reid installed the officers for 2005. After announcements, Rev. Lynda Reid led an informal communion service.

The **West Toronto** Presbyterial held its fall rally at Bonar-Parkdale Church on October 16, 2004. Presbyterial President Eleanor Dean welcomed everyone and led in repeating the WMS purpose. Elizabeth Heath led the devotions on the theme of using the gifts God has given each one of us. Janet Brewer led the singing of several choruses.

Literature Secretary Betty Stainton introduced some new books and invited everyone to review the book display.

Following a short business meeting and the treasurer's report, Carolyn Jones introduced our speaker, Holly Wilson, the new Editor of *Glad Tidings*. Holly feels that *Glad Tidings* helps unite the WMS across Canada. She mentioned that the design and content of the magazine may change in order to encourage younger women to read it. She asked for prayer support in ascertaining God's will in making adjustments and changes.

Rev. Sarah Kim closed the meeting with prayer, and everyone enjoyed chatting over refreshments.

Local

The Dorothy Douglas WMS group of Fort Macleod, Alberta held its first meeting on April 12, 1953 with Lois Boal (the wife of an RCMP officer stationed in Fort Macleod), who organized the meeting. On November 25, 2004, the four members who made up the group for the past several years unanimously agreed that they should disband, due to "aging problems and difficulties associated with the same." The secretary, Marion Kvame had been a member of the Dorothy Douglas group since its inception. Although St. Andrew's Church in Fort Macleod officially closed on December 31, 1999, the WMS group continued to meet in members' homes since that time.

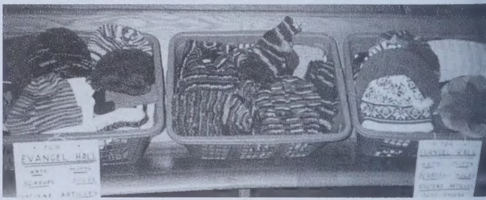
Although there were only four members, in 2004 the group sent $976 to the presbyterial treasurer for the general fund. As well, they continued to serve by assisting with various charities (Christmas shoe boxes, donating items to Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and the Salvation Army), ordering and distributing *These Days*, helping with Meals on Wheels, and sending cards and making visits to the sick and shut-in. During the 50 years of the group's existence, although they always considered it a "small group," they were able to raise over $29,000 for the WMS.

Thanks be to God for this loyal group of women who has served their Lord and Saviour so faithfully and devotedly over the years.

The WMS of St. John's Church in Winnipeg celebrated its 100th anniversary on May 15, 2004. Ina Borger and Doris Binding presented a history of our two groups—Margaret Hamilton Auxiliary and Ellen Douglas Auxiliary (now disbanded). Our special guests were Rev. Wallace and Audrey Little and they talked about their experiences in Malawi.

The Kerygma Bible study group sang and we had a sing-along. It was a wonderful afternoon as we reflected on the past to see the great workings of God. We pray for God's blessing in our future.

For several years the WMS of Knox Church in Tiverton, Ontario has collected hats, mittens, socks, etc., and personal hygiene articles to send to Evangel Hall. In December they delivered five large baskets of knitted items as well as a large box of personal hygiene articles to the hall.



Honorary Certificates 2004

Margaret McGillivray
(formerly Dundas, ON)
Goderich, ON

Mrs. Isabelle Satchell
Northeast Hope, ON

Mrs. Florence Fawcett
Shakespeare, ON

Audrey Adair
Gorrie, ON

Joan Weaver
Niagara Falls, ON

Gloria Wasacase
Brantford, ON

Geneva Campbell
Simcoe, ON

Helen Fox
Elsie Huiser
Belleville, ON

Hazel Hutchinson
Toronto, ON

Jean Godin
Cambridge, ON

Certificates of Recognition 2004

Kate French
(Children's)
Kincardine, ON

Dorothy & Peter Ruddell
(formerly Thornhill, ON)
Coldwater, ON

Alan Powell
Laurie Taylor
Stouffville, ON

Price Increase

Birks has increased the cost of our pins and with GST and postage added, the cost will be as follows:

Honorary Membership Pin: $115.00

Life Membership Pin: $65.00

When presenting a Certificate of Recognition, have you considered including a Recognition pin or charm?

Recognition pin or charm: $26.75

Please order the pins and charms from Katherine Allen in the WMS office.
The Certificates are available from the Presbyterial Treasurer.

Reviews

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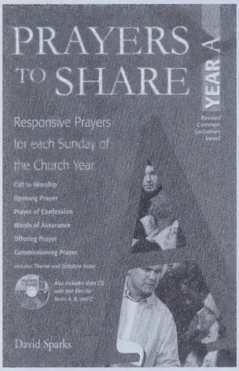


thing and without whom we are nothing, is the most natural act in the world. To be able to pray with other members of the faith community Sunday by Sunday is an awesome privilege."

Prayer is not just a solo act of the pastor, minister, or lay worship leader; many churches involve their congregations in a responsive call to worship, opening prayer, prayer of confession, offertory prayer, and other areas of worship. *Prayers to Share* provides responsive examples of most of the elements in a worship service from the gathering through the response to the sending. The book, through the Lectionary, follows the seasons of the Church Year and is a thematic fit with the sermon, hymns, and music.

I can see leaders of worship, pastors, or lay members using this reference in different ways—from incorporating the set of prayers as printed to gaining inspiration from the words and making some changes to align the style for a personal reflection of the congregation. I especially found the theme and scripture index of great benefit and recommend *Prayers to Share* be included as a reference in church libraries.

Ishbel Dimson

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

This year *Glad Tidings* magazine is celebrating its 80 years of publication. Are you doing anything to help celebrate this event? A suggested goal for 2005 is for each current subscriber to find one or more new subscribers. This would double or triple our subscription list! As I have often said, the magazine is for everyone—not just WMS members.

When the Editorial Committee met in February, I reported that there are currently 4,178 subscribers compared with 4,551 this time last year. We need to create some enthusiasm for missions by encouraging subscribers to tell others about something they have read in *Glad Tidings*.

How do you promote the magazine in your congregation? If you have any ideas to share regarding promotion, please send them to my attention before the end of May.

Also, please notify us of any changes to *Glad Tidings* Secretary/contact persons for your congregation by the end of June. This will help us ensure that the summer mailing, which contains the list of subscribers, is sent to the proper person.

Mission in Action
continued from page 37

four weeks to never underestimate God. And once again He never failed us. Scores of people accepted Christ, and through the translators, we were able to follow these new believers and help guide them in their new-found faith.

To this day I am deeply moved whenever I stop and think about the mind-blowing way in which God used me to accomplish His purposes. I saw Him work in such a tangible and profound way that these simple words fail to do it justice.

I learned to trust that God will never get you into a situation without providing you with the resources to handle it. I learned to rely on His Holy Spirit in all we do, because we can't do anything by our own power. And I learned that not much separates us from Paul and Peter. A missionary is just someone who says "Okay" when the Lord says "Go." And He may be calling you to a task as well, whether in Africa or in your workplace. Consider saying "Okay" and your life will never be the same!

For the glory of Christ, Brad Morrice

IN REMEMBRANCE

Olive Hawkins
Sharie Martini
Helen Smith
Knox, Calgary, AB

Margaret Walsh
St. Andrew's, Duncan, BC
(formerly Knox, St.
Catharines, ON)

Mabel McKinlay
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty)
Dillabough
Knox, Morrisburg, ON

Vera Lucas
Violet Brown
St. Andrew's, Mount
Forest, ON

Georgie A. Rowe
Erskine, Ottawa, ON

Mrs. Kay Augustine
First, Port Colborne, ON

May Donnelly
St. John's, Port Perry, ON

Mrs. Jean McLaren
Lochwinnoch, Renfrew, ON

Mrs. Louella Scott
Westminster, Sault Ste.
Marie, ON

Jean White
Elizabeth Fraser
St. James, Stouffville, ON

Mrs. Sharon Sherrah
Mrs. Donalda Lamont
North Caradoc-St.
Andrew's, Strathroy, ON

Isabella Tytler Hunter
St. Andrew's, Thunder
Bay, ON

Edith McClelland
Glenview, Toronto, ON

Mrs. Ruby May
Mrs. Gladys Messer
Mrs. Erma Rae
Armour Heights, Toronto,
ON

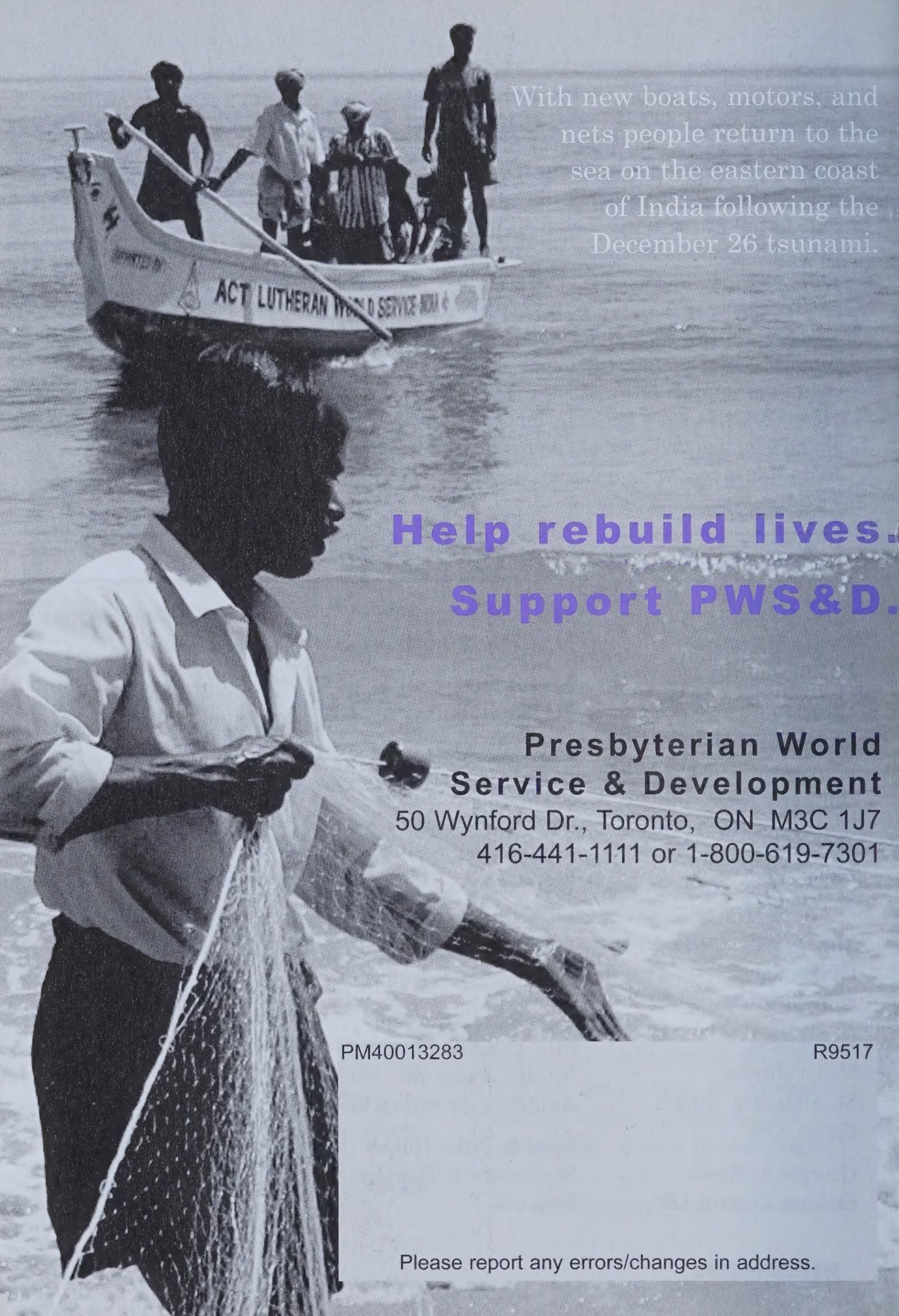
Mrs. Olive Fraser
Knox, Vankleek Hill, ON

Mrs. Marion Crockett
Knox, Victoria, BC

Evelyn Walker
Jean Durance
St. Paul's, Wiarton, ON

Doreen Simpson
Willowdale, ON

Mrs. Helen Davis
First, Winnipeg, MB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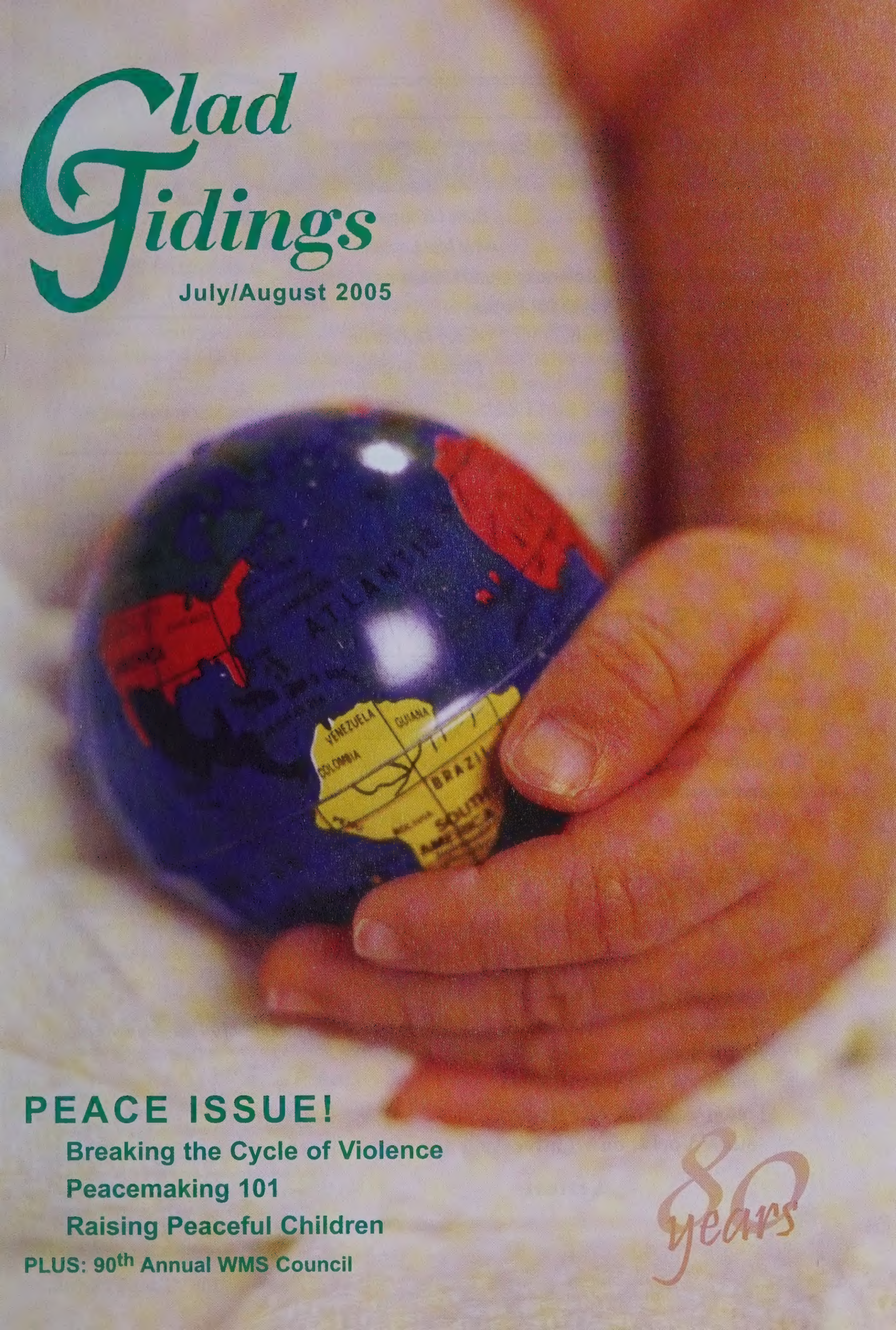
Glad Tidings

July/August 2005


ATLANTIC
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BRAZIL
SOUTH AMERICA
80 years

PEACE ISSUE!

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

Peacemaking 101

Raising Peaceful Children

PLUS: 90th Annual WMS Council

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Prayer for Peace

Lead me from Death to Life,
from Falsehood to Truth
Lead me from Despair to Hope,
from Fear to Trust
Lead me from Hate to Love,
from War to Peace
Let Peace fill our Heart,
our World, our Universe...

Amen

Glad Tidings

July/August 2005
Volume 81, No. 4

EDITOR
HOLLY WILSON
DESIGN
ALEXIS DIMSON
CIRCULATION MANAGER
KATHERINE ALLEN

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

When I joined the staff of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) and *Glad Tidings* magazine last May, I was immediately approached by the editor of *Horizons* magazine regarding *Glad Tidings*' involvement in a joint ecumenical issue on peace with several other Christian women's magazines. I was a little leery at the time—not knowing how much I would be able to be involved in the planning and execution of this effort as I had only just started working for the WMS. However, the other editors involved in this venture were so understanding and accommodating that my fears soon dissipated. With that said, I am pleased and excited to present to you this unique, special *Glad Tidings* issue on peace.

In this issue, you will find ways on how to make the world a more peaceful place—ways you may never have thought of. *Glad Tidings* and the following magazines are sharing stories about peace this month: *Horizons*, published by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); *Lutheran Woman Today*, the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; and *Response*, published by United Methodist Women of the United Methodist Church. Together, we will reach an audience of about 200,000 readers.

We started this effort more than a year ago, and since then, a couple of other women's organizations have expressed interest in joining. *Timbrel*, the magazine of Mennonite women in the United States and Canada, will offer many of these articles to its readers throughout the year, and the Episcopalians wanted to be a part of the ecumenical peace effort by letting women know how they are working to end poverty around the world and improve the lives of women and their families. You can read about their efforts at episcopalchurch.org/uncsw.htm.

We want you to join this landmark event by sharing and discussing the stories on these pages with others. We'd also like you to think about ways to celebrate the International Day of Peace on September 21. Try co-ordinating an ecumenical dialogue on peace and praying for those who don't live in peace.

Remember, a peaceful world starts with you.

The Wisdom of Anger:

The Path to Peace

by Jean Gray

For many years, inner peace remained misty and elusive to me, understood by others but not by me. Maybe this is true for you. We, women, are constantly faced with what we must do, should do, and ought to do. Our need to be perfect daughters, perfect wives, perfect mothers, perfect grandmothers, perfect bosses, perfect friends invades our minds like a swirl of smoke —and leads to perfect misery. To become more peaceful, we must learn to identify and trust the inner guides that are already a part of us. We must face, not fear, the anxiety and anger that boil within us. Once we do, we can become more peaceful people.

Last summer, I was enjoying an excellent lunch with several friends in a lovely setting. These three women had all experienced anger within the last few days and still felt uncomfortable about it, even though it seemed to me

that they had good reason to be angry. As a psychotherapist, I don't see all anger as unhealthy. When anger comes to us as an internal message (a messenger), it can be a signal that something is wrong. However, anger can be a difficult issue for many of us because our culture suggests that anger in women can be unfeminine, uncaring, or even neurotic. Anger is a sanctioned male emotion in most cultures, but with women it is a taboo.

The goal of the workshop I held later, "The Wisdom of Women's Anger," was to help women, who find anger difficult, begin to realize inner peace. I wanted women to explore and celebrate non-violent, healthy anger within us as a message that something is wrong and calls for our attention. I hoped to help women come to terms with the idea of positive anger, which can drive out the shadows of fear and anxiety that darken our spirits and clear the way to inner peace.

Feminine Peace

The word "peace" means different things to different people, but let's look at it from a feminine perspective. For women, peace comes in accepting our full range of feelings as valid and valuable. Each of us has a purpose for living and should embrace the joys, sorrows, frustrations, and triumphs that come with that. Connecting to our feelings by honouring and celebrating them is critical to our emotional health.

When we try to create and sustain what the larger culture tells us is

Practise Finding Inner Peace

Name it

- Name your feeling and validate it as a legitimate messenger that requires your full attention.
- Ask yourself if you are reacting or responding to the feeling. Reacting might mean withdrawing (going inward with fear) or attacking (going outward in fear). Responding means acknowledging a problem, observing the feeling it calls up, remaining calm, and working out how to face the problem.

Think about it

- Once the feeling is fully validated, think about it.
- Ask yourself what you should know or understand about this anger or other strong emotion.
- What occurred in your environment to bring it on? When did it arise and why? Is this a novel situation or part of a pattern?
- How did you come to have this feeling?
- Who is involved in the feeling or the event that calls it forth?
- List ways you could act on the feeling.

Write about it

- Clarify and solidify the way you feel by writing about it. You can use writing as a safe and powerful tool.

Affirm it

- Affirm your feeling, yourself, and give thanks to God for being uniquely you.

Practise it

- Practise becoming comfortable with your feelings so that you can regard them as gifts to be opened, acknowledged, and valued.
- Practise understanding your feelings so that you can uncover your strength, determination, and confidence.

The peacefulness that comes from naming, thinking about, writing about, affirming, and practising inner peace gives you the tools to boost your spiritual life and spread love, joy, and peace to those around you.

perfection, we are denying who we are. We tell our colleagues, our children, our partners, our spouses, even ourselves that nothing is ever too much for us to handle. But that's not true. In refusing to face human limitations, in denying that constant multi-tasking is sometimes too much to handle, we create inner conflict.

Inner conflict is the opposite of inner peace. Anxiety, fearfulness, guilt, self-doubt, helplessness, confusion, physical illness, alcohol and drug abuse, overeating, overspending—most of us have experienced at least one of these. We can recognize them in our friends or relatives. Many of us have denied a hurtful situation in our lives (unhealthy anger in others, abuse, infidelity) and unconsciously chosen these unhealthy ways of trying to cope. And for a while, they work, muffling our pain and sadness. But we lose our sense of peace. Some of us may have never experienced inner peace in our adult lives.

Healthy Anger

Let's be honest, not all anger is healthy. We might use anger to gain a sense of control or power. Or we might become overly dependent on another person, constantly working for approval or acceptance, becoming angry when we don't receive it. In unhealthy anger, we silently criticize others, especially women, who are able to speak up for themselves. Some of us become envious of stronger women and even more frustrated with our own situation.

It is healthy anger that women need to identify and embrace. As children of God, we are born with the right to all our feelings. Once we truly understand and believe that our emotions are gifts, we can claim the peace that comes with self-acceptance. Once we achieve this peace, we can resolve matters in our lives that trouble us.

Here's the catch. Women who understand and accept their emotions and who value themselves can be very powerful—individually and collectively. And it seems that our male-dominated culture has little interest in encouraging this self-discovery. (I'm not talking about our enlightened men, who believe in the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes.) Shielding women from personal discovery has worked well for centuries. The messages and conditioning women receive from their upbringing, at school, in the media, and in the workplace teach them to accept less than they give. If they seek to claim as much as (or heaven forbid, more than) others get, they are handed a plateful of guilt.

I know many women who have overcome the powerful cultural suggestion that they deserve less and are worth less, and the result for them is a sense of internal peace about who they are. There is a lot of this type of courage going around today, and it is contagious. If you can't exclude the word "selfish" from this discussion, consider this: In caring for ourselves first, we become whole and healthy

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A Peaceful Talk:

An Intergenerational Dialogue on Peace

by Sara Lisherness

Elizabeth sat at her kitchen table, enjoying her tea. Esther, her multi-coloured hair still rumpled from sleep, thumped down the stairs, holding a tattered photo album. “Morning, Grandma,” she said.

“Morning, Esther,” replied Elizabeth. “Where did you find that album?”

“In Mom’s room,” replied Esther. “Could you tell me about some pictures?”

“Certainly. First, let’s get you something to eat.”

As Elizabeth stirred the oatmeal, she asked what had made Esther decide to visit, rather than going home or doing something with friends for spring break.

“Mom is so stupid and uptight,” Esther ranted. “She has no faith in me and tries to control everything I do. I couldn’t stand being around her. She never lets me do anything. I wanted to go to Colombia to stand in solidarity with workers trying to organize unions. Mom said it wasn’t safe and wouldn’t give me the money to go. We’re completely different—she doesn’t care about any of the things I do. She just doesn’t understand me!”

Elizabeth nodded, “It may be good to look at that album.”

Together they turned the pages.

“Where’s this?” Esther asked, pointing to her grandparents and mother walking down a street with a crowd of people, some white, most of them black.

“That’s the 1963 March on Washington—black and white people from around the country joined in a peaceful demonstration to emphasize the importance of civil rights. Martin Luther King gave his ‘I Have a Dream’ speech. Our church organized a group to go and we came back determined to act against racial injustice. Sometimes we acted as we needed to, other times, we still need to grow.”

“Why the church, Grandma?” asked Esther.

“The church has often been a voice for justice and peace,” explained Elizabeth. “Peacemaking is central to the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

“Peacemaking is about anti-war protests,” exclaimed Esther. “Where’s the connection to civil rights and racism?”

“Peace is more than the absence of war. True peace requires justice for all people. As long as people are poor or oppressed, or God’s creation is abused, peacemaking is needed," replied Elizabeth. "Here's a picture from an Earth Day Celebration in the early 1970s."

"Mom looks ridiculous in that long dress!"

Elizabeth continued, "Peacemaking is done in many ways. Sometimes we seek God's peace for ourselves when we face difficult times. Or we pray for peace for someone else. Peacemaking can be done in our communities or school, in our nation, or in other parts of the world. Peacemaking includes taking care of God's creation."

Esther reflected, "How do churches that care about this stuff decide what to do?"

"Members of our women's group heard Dr. Helen Caldicott talk about the threat of nuclear war. She's a medical doctor who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her anti-nuclear activism," responded Elizabeth. "We heard how a 'regular person' could make a difference—that got our church working."

"How have you kept doing this all these years?" asked Esther.

Elizabeth smiled, "For me, part of following Jesus is seeking peace in his name. Over the years, our church has approached peacemaking as an important part of our mission. We pick three or four issues to focus on each year. Some we work on for years. Some are short-term projects. Whatever we do—a study on non-violence, cleaning up the river, or advocating for peace in the Middle East—we try to get everyone involved in some way."

Esther pointed to a newspaper clipping. "What's happening here, Grandma?"

"That is a candlelight prayer vigil for victims of rape and domestic violence. Your mother organized it while she was in college. With some other folks, she started the first crisis hotline and then raised money for a domestic violence shelter."

"I can't believe it!" Esther exclaimed. "All she ever does is work anymore."

Elizabeth replied, "Don't underestimate her. She has a strong commitment for many of the same concerns you have. She just approaches them differently right now.

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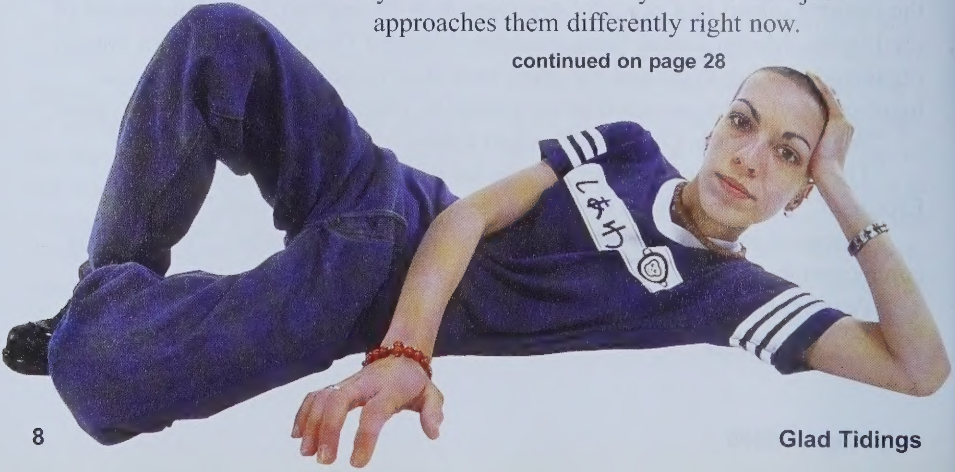
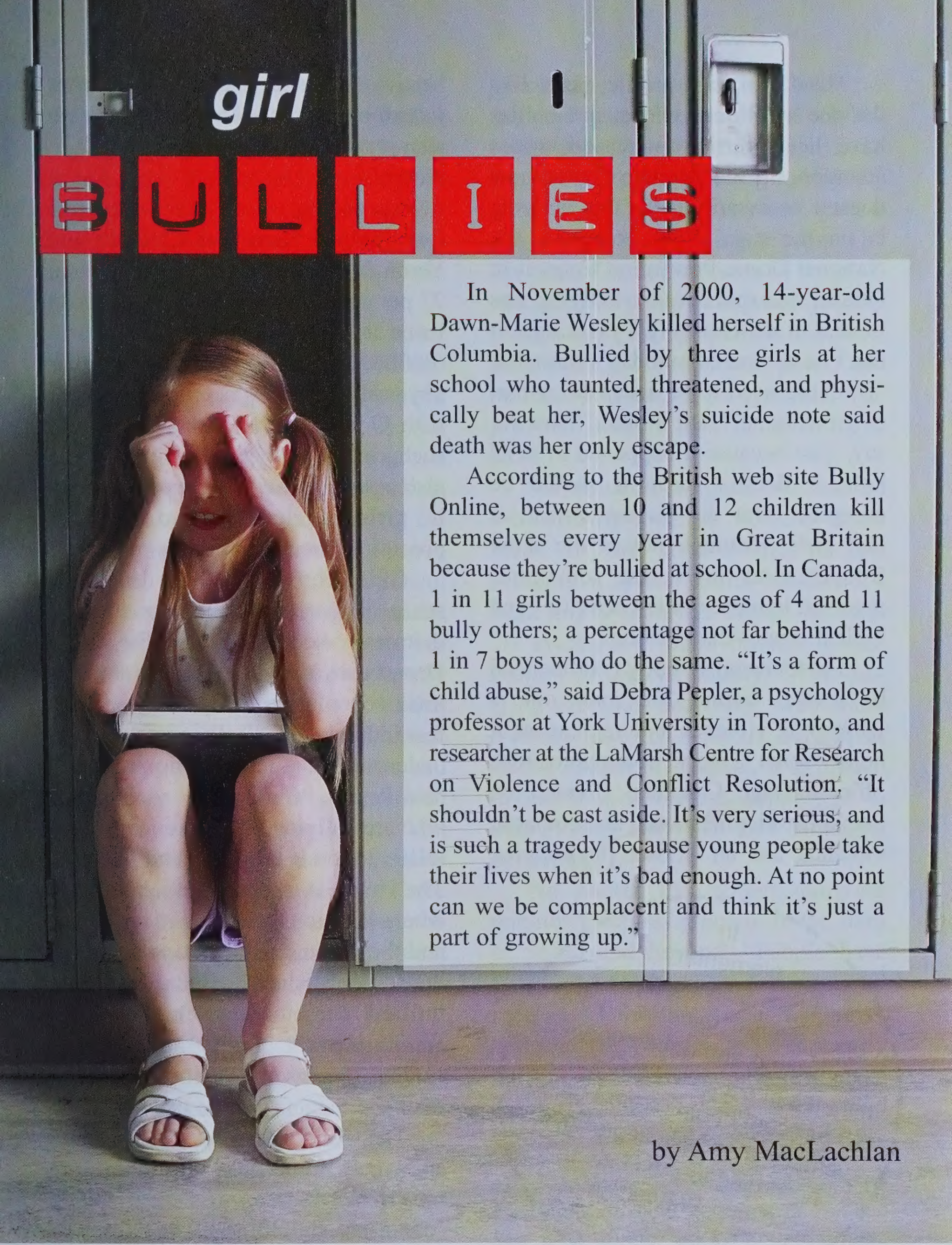


girl BULLIES



In November of 2000, 14-year-old Dawn-Marie Wesley killed herself in British Columbia. Bullied by three girls at her school who taunted, threatened, and physically beat her, Wesley's suicide note said death was her only escape.

According to the British web site Bully Online, between 10 and 12 children kill themselves every year in Great Britain because they're bullied at school. In Canada, 1 in 11 girls between the ages of 4 and 11 bully others; a percentage not far behind the 1 in 7 boys who do the same. "It's a form of child abuse," said Debra Pepler, a psychology professor at York University in Toronto, and researcher at the LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution. "It shouldn't be cast aside. It's very serious, and is such a tragedy because young people take their lives when it's bad enough. At no point can we be complacent and think it's just a part of growing up."

by Amy MacLachlan

This article was provided by *Glad Tidings* magazine a publication of the Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thanks to high-profile cases like the one mentioned above, girl bullies have been getting increased media attention. But the heightened awareness doesn't necessarily mean that bullying is on the rise. Mark Stokes at the National Crime Prevention Council in Ottawa said that because bullying was looked at differently 20 years ago, it can't be compared to today's statistics. "Bullying used to be accepted as part of growing up," said Stokes. "Now we say, 'just because it happened to us as kids, it doesn't mean it should be accepted.' But the feeling overall is that girls, although not at the same frequency as boys, are sometimes involved in more violent activities and violent crimes than before."

The tendency to bully is influenced by several factors. The main one is witnessing violence and aggression at home. Janet Creery, communications officer at the Canadian Council on Social Development, said that domestic violence has an impact on bullying behaviour. Since girls are at a higher risk of being abused at home, they are also at risk of being a bully or a bully's victim.

In elementary schools bullying occurs once every 7 minutes on the playground and once every 25 minutes in class. In high school, 75 per cent of girls report being verbally or socially aggressive, according to the National Crime Prevention Council.

According to the National Longitudinal Survey of Children and Youth conducted by Statistics Canada, 27 per cent of girls who observed violence at home were overtly aggressive (defined by bullying, threatening, or physically attacking people), compared with 17 per cent who had not witnessed such violence. Domestic violence was also associated with increased anxiety in girls—a characteristic that can precipitate being bullied by others.

Girls who are bullied develop a sense of fear, exclusion, anxiety, and distress. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, 160,000 students miss school every day because they fear intimidation. "Bullying needs to be understood as a relationship problem," said Pepler. "Children in adolescence who are bullying others are learning to relate to others by causing distress. The victim is trapped in a relationship where they lose power as it continues, and they're unable to escape once it is well established." Because being bullied depletes the child's status among peers and zaps their personal control, victims often resort to bullying others to regain some of that control.

The seriousness of bullying has spawned numerous peace-building programs. Some are specifically school-based, with teachers trained on bullying issues. Others are community-led, and schools invite these external experts to lead workshops. Some programs are student-led, hoping to empower youth to speak out against bullying. Drama and role-playing, music, self-reflection, and games are used to varying degrees.

The Ontario government introduced a Safe Schools Act in 2001 that included codes of conduct, disciplinary measures, and prevention strategies pertaining to bullying. It also features a controversial zero tolerance policy, which deals out harsh punishment for unacceptable behaviours. Bruce Cameron, the Toronto District School Board's coordinating principal for the policy, said it's important to remember that zero tolerance isn't the act's only strategy. Teaching pro-social skills, resolving conflict in a peaceful way, tending to socio-emotional issues, and disciplining in a progressive manner are other essential ingredients. "You have to look beyond the immediate circumstances," said Cameron. "There are others involved and they have to be dealt with as well. You have to respond in a disciplinary process that isn't short-sighted."

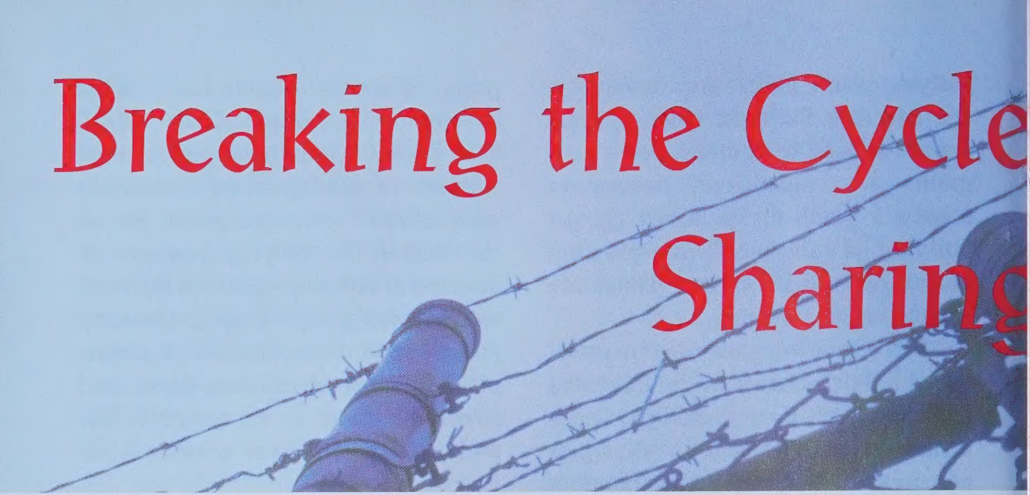
Because bullying by girls often involves behaviours that damage social relationships such as taunting, insults, manipulation, rumours, and exclusion, programs to improve the situation must focus on restoring relationships and helping bullies understand how it feels to be ridiculed by their peers. "They also need to focus on the developmental issues of the child," said Pepler. "Some need much more support in getting along positively with others." Because peers are so involved in the bullying process—85 per cent of bullying occurs in the presence of a peer group—the peace-building process must include parents, teachers, principals, sports coaches, peers, and police. "It needs to be systemic. The problem doesn't revolve around one child."

Stokes said a program must not be too narrowly-focused. "A bully is not made in the school—they're just bringing it to the school because it's most easily manifest there," he said. "It involves a much broader cross-section of the community." With bullying methods becoming even more difficult to catch with the advent of online instant messaging, it is crucial to mobilize numerous supporters to help monitor and catch such damaging behaviour.

No matter the gender, bullying remains a serious problem in the lives of youth and beyond. "People have always said, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me.' Well, words can be extremely hurtful," said Cameron, "and in some cases, far worse than sticks and stones."

Amy MacLachlan is a staff writer with the Presbyterian Record *magazine in Toronto. She is a recent graduate of Carleton University's journalism program.*

Breaking the Cycle
Sharin



"I didn't mean to kill my baby, but she was crying and crying, and I had to shut her up to get some peace." (Quote from a woman serving 50 years for murder)

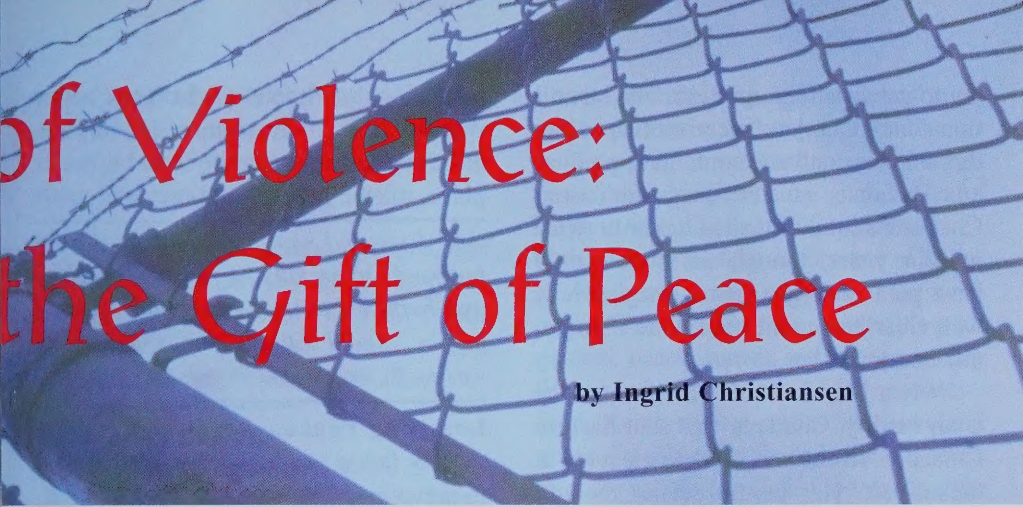
There is probably no one among us who does not hope for peace. We address one another on Sunday mornings with "The peace of the Lord be with you." We use the word "peace" when we close a letter or e-mail and when we say goodbye. We hope for peace in our later years. And we rejoice when we find a peaceful place to live.

Why do we constantly invoke something that should be easy to come by—an absence of violence and the presence of goodwill locally, nationally, and globally? What makes peace so longed-for, yet so elusive?

When I was growing up, my parents did not hit us or even raise their voices to us, their five children. I imagined all households were that way. No one in my neighbourhood acted in any way that would have suggested to us that force was a way to solve problems. I imagined the world to be a fair and kind place.

Every day now, however, in my work I see the failure of the world to be fair and kind. I work in the criminal justice system on the defence teams of people facing possible death sentences. My job as a capital mitigation specialist is to learn the story of the defendant's life so that I can explain to a judge and jury why this man or woman committed this terrible crime. My goal is to save my clients from the death penalty.

I spend many hours with my clients in jail or prison. During our time together, we explore their family roots, their gifts and contributions, and what led to their crime. I mostly see their sorrow, regret, and anger. But sometimes I see their hope and joy. I accompany these men and women as they come to terms with what they have done and what that has done to their lives. Most of them will spend the rest of their lives in prison whether or not they are sentenced to death. Although this is hard for them to



f Violence:
the Gift of Peace

by Ingrid Christiansen

accept, they know it is the penalty for the pain they have caused.

Pain is cyclical. The pain these prisoners have inflicted is tied to the pain they have suffered, most from infancy. If it were not for grace—forgiveness, and the love of God—many of them would end their own lives during this time. Some do.

"I had to shoot him, or he would have shot me, and I suppose my family, too." (Quote from a woman, 22, convicted of first-degree murder)

Roots of Violence

In his profound book *Violence*, James Gilligan, M.D., explores the roots of violence. He believes that people commit acts of violence to get justice or revenge on behalf of someone they know or for themselves. Usually, he writes, they are punishing their victim because they believe that this person unjustly punished them. Gilligan reveals the irony—the motive for the violence is the same that produces the punishment—justice.

One of my clients, Charlene, grew up in the brothel and drug house that her grandmother and drug-addicted mother ran. When Charlene was 11, her mother made her confess to a murder committed by an older cousin. In that family, children under 12 were made to admit to serious crimes committed by relatives over 12. The sentence for a child under 12 was 5 years; older offenders might be sentenced to 30 to 40 years.

Charlene was sentenced to a Utah facility for young offenders. She was evaluated initially as mentally slow and depressed. However, when she was placed in a cottage with other children and house parents, she flourished. Her house parents made her go to school, eat healthy foods, and go to bed at a consistent time. When she got sick, she was cared for. She belonged to a support group and she saw a therapist regularly.

Within two years, Charlene was at the head of her class. She became a leader in the school. The staff displayed such confidence in her that they permitted her to get an off-campus job. The institutional care Charlene received helped her thrive in ways no one could have predicted. Because of her drug addiction, Charlene's mother visited her only twice in four years, though the state would have paid for eight visits. Imagine how well Charlene could have done if someone had loved her more.

When she finished her time at the Utah facility, Charlene was sent back to Chicago. No one was there to meet her at the airport. Her parole officer thought that her mother would pick her up, but her mother forgot. Charlene didn't know how to get from the airport to her old neighbourhood. Her mother had moved and the brothel had burned to the ground. She eventually found a childhood friend selling drugs on the street, and the friend allowed Charlene to stay with her. Soon, Charlene was selling drugs, too. Within two years, she had two babies and had committed the murder that brought her to my attention. She was a candidate for the death penalty because her rap sheet showed two murders.

What does Charlene's story have to do with peace? If the world in which Charlene and others like her live were more just, there would be drug treatment for her mother and a decent job for her grandmother. If citizens demanded that the police, public defenders, and prosecutors be fully staffed and better supervised, Charlene would never have been convicted of a murder she didn't commit. If citizens demanded better schools for all, Charlene and other poor children in poor neighbourhoods might learn better ways to deal with frustration. If everyone did their part to make the world a better place, maybe peace could prevail.

"All I wanted was a normal family—a husband, some kids to raise up healthy and happy—but those drugs got hold of me . . . and I killed him." (Quote from a woman, 20, sentenced to 40 years for murder)

Learning Peace

My father was a pacifist. He refused to serve in the military in World War II. He said he did not believe in solving problems through killing people. My mother made us memorize hymns because she said we would stand up for our beliefs, and knowing the words to hymns would help maintain our good judgment if we were jailed for protesting. My parents encouraged the five of us to work for justice and taught us that when challenges came we could do the right thing.

My husband and I followed in our parents' footsteps and tried to raise non-violent and just children. We allowed no toy weapons. We taught peaceful games and encouraged creativity and co-operation instead of competition. We were children of the '60s, and idealism pervaded our lives.

I imagine all the work we put into peaceful play helped form our children into non-violent people. In addition, however, it made them oddballs to some classmates. Children raised to love peace also need to learn how to stand up for their convictions. A family that practises peace and peacefully challenges a culture of violence is a powerful model for children and lends them courage and joy in their struggles.

"I don't know what came over me, but when I had the chance, it felt like I was paying back every man who ever hurt me, and I killed him." (Quote from a woman, 42, serving 60 years for murder)

Practising Peace

Another of my clients, Karl, desperately wanted to kill himself, but he didn't have the courage or the means. As we prayed and studied Scripture together, looking for God's plan for his life, he came to a place in his faith journey where he could help his cellmate with *his* crises of faith. Karl taught this man how he practised his faith: daily prayer, daily Bible study, and kindness to others. In teaching his friend these things, Karl learned them better himself. Through practising his faith and with the help of the Holy Spirit, he discerned a path to a future in prison that he could live with. He no longer wanted to commit suicide. Peace was restored to his heart and it even began to spread throughout his cell block.

I pray for a sign of grace in my clients—that they come to a vision of their future that includes finding things inside themselves that they can generously give to those around them. Being a patient listener, a good counsellor, a letter writer—these are examples of gifts that make the life of the giver worth living. People who visit prisoners can help them discover these signs of hope and grace. Sharing their gifts helps inmates form a culture of peace within prison walls.

I don't think we can have a culture of peace without practising such peaceful ways to live together. Like practising our faith, we must work at the practice of peace.

We must work for justice if we want peace. That is the truth underlying all genuine peace. Justice includes providing the necessities of life to all people—food, water, shelter, and a little love and grace. People need these basics in order to grow and to use their God-given gifts in ways that bring joy and satisfaction to themselves and others. Denied life's necessities, people will fight for what they need.

If, as Gilligan says in his book, violence is an attempt to get justice, then our job as peacemakers is to attend to injustices in our world. Open your heart to those who are oppressed among you: Visit a prison, work among the poor, volunteer with children, write to your MP when you see that changes are needed. We all have gifts of peace that we can share to help bring healing to God's creation.

Great and Merciful God, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice.

Ingrid Christiansen worked as a professor of urban studies in Chicago for 30 years and now serves as a sentencing advocate for people facing the death penalty. She and her husband, John Kretzmann, are members of Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago. This article was provided by Lutheran Woman Today, *the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

September 21: Churches Worldwide to Pray for Peace, Asia

In 2005, for the second year running, churches representing over 560 million Christians worldwide are being invited to mark the International Day of Peace, September 21, as an **International Day of Prayer for Peace**.

Launched in 2004 by the World Council of Churches in the framework of its *Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace (2001-2010)*, the initiative calls on Christian churches all over the world to arrange for 24-hour observances or vigils on September 21, as well as to include prayers for peace in their services on the Sunday before or after that day.

The theme for this year's **International Day of Prayer for Peace** is "Building communities of peace for all." Churches from Asia, the region chosen as the special focus during 2005 for the Decade to Overcome Violence, have proposed this theme.

The theme conveys a "spirit of celebrating diversity," says Hope S. Antone, executi secretary for Faith, Mission, and Unity of the Christian Conference of Asia. In th spirit, she adds, "We, Asian Christians, would no longer see the other as the mort enemy, or as the unsaved doomed for hell, or as the poor heathen to convert. We woul instead look at them as brothers, sisters, partners, whom God also loves, to whom G has also revealed truths, from whom we can learn about life, living, and relating, an in whom we can also find the image of God."

Christian churches worldwide are therefore invited to especially include Christians and faith communities in that vast and diverse continent in their prayers of intercession on that day. In 2004, the special focus of the Decade to Overcome Violence was on the United States.

More information and prayer resources will be available at www.overcomingviolence.org/peace2005

Raising Peaceful Children

by Kathy McGinnis

It was a meltdown, pure and simple. The setting was our granddaughter Bria's third birthday party. The immediate cause was a piñata, shaped like her favourite cartoon character, and the group of busy three-year-olds enjoying the avalanche of candy spilling from the hole they created in that piñata. Bria was no longer the sole focus of the party. So she left the company of the other children and stood next to a wall sobbing her heart out. What happened next was amazing. Two little girls from the party came and stood next to Bria. They didn't talk to her. They were just with her—a ministry of presence.

When I described this scene to my daughter, she just smiled. "I think I know at least one of the reasons why they did that," she said. "When Claudia (one of the girls) first came to the preschool, she just kept crying for her mother. So for that first week, Bria would take her hand and just walk with her around the room."

Once again I am reminded of how much we have to learn from children and how important it is to teach them what it means to be a peacemaker.

Self-Esteem and Affirmation

Children (and adults) need to live in an environment that makes them feel capable, competent, and accepted. If there isn't a generally positive feeling in the home, family members won't be inclined to take the time and make the effort to work through conflicts in a non-violent manner. Nurturing a young person's sense of self-esteem by affirming their efforts and providing opportunities to develop their talents is an enormously important part of raising a peacemaker.

Co-operation

The level of competition in our society often is overwhelming, especially to children. On the contrary, children intuitively know that co-operative situations and outcomes are best. I remember hearing a six-year-old tell his mother that the soccer game was great because the score was tied and nobody lost! In the home, consider having family members share tasks, rather than "everyone on their own"—whether it's chores, planning and carrying out special events, gardening, or tutoring. Adults who encourage children to learn a variety of skills that cut across traditional gender roles can further expand the possibilities of co-operation.

Conflict Resolution

In a class on conflict resolution, a second-grade student told me she didn't think her father generally listened to her because he was always working on the computer and would talk to her without looking at her—certainly a valid insight about listening. Whatever the problem, basic conflict resolution skills—listening, expressing and validating feelings, learning non-hurtful ways to express anger, expressing needs and wants in clear terms, weighing a variety of possible solutions to any given conflict, and negotiation—are absolutely essential. And the best way to teach those skills is to model them to and with our children.

Family Meetings

While many families have family meetings on an emergency basis, regular family meetings provide an opportunity to teach and practise peace-making skills and behaviours.

The family meeting, as a shared approach to making decisions and resolving conflicts, is an extremely important mechanism for promoting peace and co-operation in the home. This more mutual approach to parenting does not mean adult abdication of responsibility or authority, but it does lead us closer to authentic empowerment of children.

Countering Violent Images

If we want to counteract the violent images that are all too available on television, video games, computer games, and elsewhere, we need to provide counter images and models of non-violence that are equally exciting and challenging. And we need to encourage our children to become critical thinkers and viewers.

With regard to toys, one solution, especially with young children, is to provide joyful alternatives. As four-year-old Peter told his mother, "You don't like guns, but I do." So his mother's challenge was to find other possibilities that build on the young child's need for play that calls forth power, strength, and speed. Flashlights, battery-operated cars, and games of rescue are some possible alternatives. Recalling the importance of family meetings, one principle to keep in mind is the need to negotiate with children, not impose adult solutions on them. Otherwise we are partially reinforcing the problem—imposition on the weak by the strong.

Understanding the Violence of War

In many ways, young persons are desensitized to the human consequences of war. We need to expose the real face of war to our children. Although young children cannot handle graphic images of war, they do need to know that bombs kill people; they don't just fall on tanks or buildings. And children can certainly be part of our efforts to speak out for peace—through letter-writing, political activity, yard signs, marches, and more.

Understanding Institutional Violence

Institutional violence comes in many shapes and forms—racism, sexism, economic exploitation, and all of the ways that the policies of institutions deprive human beings of the necessities of life and basic dignity. Part of our role as peacemakers in the home is to find ways for family members to understand and protest this form of violence. When told a story of an African-American family being harassed in an attempt to get them to move out of a neighbourhood, a five-year-old child responded, "That's not fair!" That sort of comment is the first step in protesting such treatment and should be followed with tangible ways for that child to express her feelings.

Kathy McGinnis is executive director of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis. She is an author, teacher, workshop leader, mother and grandmother, and delights in working with children of all ages. This article was provided by Horizons, *the magazine for Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

The Wisdom of Anger

continued from page 6

enough to care for families, our work, our friends, our community, and our planet. Someone has said that caring for oneself first can be likened to a flight attendant's instructions to put the oxygen mask over your own face before you put one on your child. We must be fully aware, internally and externally, before we can help others.

We ourselves can practise finding our own inner peace in small ways. Observe your inner environment, the river of anger flowing within you. Do this calmly and quietly, telling no one. Trust your answers. Write them down. Explore them. Then begin to talk about your anger with someone you trust. When we are honest with ourselves and non-critical about others, we can bring our lives back into clear focus. God wants us to have inner peace for many reasons—the most important being that we can be better instruments of God's desire for peace in our world.

Jean Gray, a psychotherapist in Oak Forest, Ill., specializes in women's issues. She is a member of the Church of the Transfiguration, Palos Park, Ill. This article was provided by Lutheran Woman Today, *the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Meditations on Peace: Women of the Old Testament

by Rosalie Sugrue

We are in the midst of the *Decade to Overcome Violence,* yet this decade has brought more violence into our living rooms than any previous decade. It is easy to feel helpless in the graphic face of mass evil. Yet never before in the history of the world have there been so many people creatively working for peace. Thousands of children are folding paper cranes, hundreds of young people are uniting in cross-culture enterprises, and numerous workers are giving their skills in causes of education, health, law enforcement, building, and reconstruction. There are seminars, camps, and massive marches; Government ventures, International ventures, and Non-Government Organizations working tirelessly for the cause of peace. Millions of dollars are fed into the dream.

Daily, since liturgies first began, priests have prayed "Grant us peace in our time, O Lord." Every minute of every day ordinary people are praying for peace. It is easy to think there is no practical way to support these prayers. It is easy to think the actions of individuals are too insignificant to count. Yet every act of violence, and every act of peace, begins with the actions of an individual. Each kindly act, no matter how small, is a contribution to a culture of peace. Individuals have the power to work wonders.

The following meditations come from the scrolls of the Hebrew Scriptures. Only time separates us from these women. By wit and will, each was a peace achiever…

Achsah

(Judges 1:12–15; 3:7–11)

I am Achsah (Ak-sa), daughter of Caleb. The bravery of Caleb is legendary. In his youth he was the one selected by Moses to represent the tribe of Judah in spying out the Promised Land. It was a daunting task. Ten of the chosen declared the mission impossible; only my father and Joshua of Ephraim stood resolute determined that with God anything is possible. But the verdict of the ten meant all the people of Israel were doomed to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Of that entire generation, only Joshua and Caleb were given the privilege of entering the Promised Land.

Conquering cities is a beastly business. I would have preferred to live the nomadic life I was born into, but my father said I was born into something better. He was zealous in doing what he believed to be God's will. Personally I can't accept such a God and I wonder if our leaders have got it right. But of what account are the thoughts of a woman! A more pressing problem is the age of my father. Conquering cities is all very well for the young but it isn't something a man can do indefinitely. My father has decided to encourage would-be conquerors. He is offering a prize to the one who takes the city of Kiriathsepher. "What is the prize father?" I asked.

"Land, of course," he replied, "but finding the right patch is a problem. The offer needs to be tempting." He glanced briefly in my direction, then back again. It was as if he was seeing me for the first time in a long while. My cheeks coloured under his gaze. "Daughter," he said at last, "I have found a prize worthy of the bravest warrior."

As you can imagine I took a keen interest in that particular battle. The victor happened to be a man I knew well—my cousin Othniel. It was more than I dared hope; Othniel is an imposing figure known for his honour. I sensed that he was happy with his prize. In fact, he was so keen to have me wed that he didn't bother to check out the land gift. When I saw this prize, my spirits dropped. There was plenty of land but no water. I couldn't believe the foolishness of my father. Did he really expect Othniel to settle for barren land? I hoped it was an honest mistake but I feared my husband would think otherwise.

I had come into this marriage with delight but now only trouble stretched before me. Othniel would not suffer an insult of this magnitude. He would surely take up arms against my father. Only death could come of such a feud. Othniel was still too captivated by his first prize to notice all was not well. I had to act quickly. I told him that although I loved him dearly I had been smitten with homesickness.

"Let me return just for a day," I begged, "I have a burning desire to speak with my parents and there are some things I need. Grant me this and I will not leave you again." "Your every wish is my desire," he replied.

I mounted my donkey and went straight to my father's field. I dismounted before him. His eyes carried the shifty look of apprehension but his words were strong, "Daughter, what is your wish?"

"Father," I replied, "I have come for a blessing. The land you gifted to my husband and myself contains no water source. Could you find it in your heart to extend the gift to include land that contains a spring?"

His brow slowly smoothed. "Daughter, your wish is wise. Tell your husband you can have both the upper and lower springs of Negeb."

Two springs—did the gift reflect love or guilt? "You are truly a generous father," I responded.

Family harmony prevailed, but alas the people of Israel fell into evil ways, and God allowed them to be sold into the hands of Cushan-rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia. When the people repented and called out for a deliverer, God raised up my husband as that deliverer. Othniel defeated the King of Mesopotamia and became the first Judge over Israel. His rule of peace lasted for 40 years.

Abigail

(1 Samuel 25:1–42; 2 Samuel 3:3)

My name is Abigail. My fate was to marry a surly, bad-tempered man. My parents were happy with the match as the man was very wealthy. "You have been blessed with great beauty," my father said with pride. I saw this blessing as a curse. Not only was the man much older than me, his name was Nabal, which translated means *fool*. My mother added words too soft for father to hear. "You have also been blessed with great understanding." With due ceremony (it cost my parents a fortune), I was packed off to Nabal's estate at Carmel. His livestock dotted the mount like a covering of pebbles. I was told last muster totalled 3000 sheep and 1000 goats. Despite his wealth Nabal was thick as a brick. I quickly discovered how to detect his moods and disarm his anger. Compared to many women I lived well and didn't have to resort to counting sheep to get to sleep! I enjoyed the responsibility of a large household and I was able to keep up with happenings beyond household concerns.

....

"Blessed be the Lord God"

....

I grieved greatly when the prophet Samuel was buried. He was the voice of reason in the land. King Saul had become eccentric to the point it was said openly he was losing his mind but he was not willing to give up the throne. The successor had been named, David, the giant slayer. Once a favourite of the King, David had married his younger daughter but irrationality possessed Saul, thus forcing David to live as a fugitive. After the death of Samuel, David chose our land to set up his camp. It was frightening witnessing the strength of the rebel army. They arrived during shearing and we were in a vulnerable position; however, we were not disturbed in any way.

One day an emissary of ten men arrived at our door. They were un-armed and greeted Nabal with flattering words. "To you, who live in prosperity, we bring greetings in the name of David." I served the men with food and drink. "Peace be to both of you," they said, "and peace be to your house and peace be to all that you have." I retired to let the men conduct their business but I saw the emissary depart in haste and was filled with foreboding. My husband spoke not a word to me but never had I seen him look so smug and stubborn.

One of the young men who had witnessed the discussion came to me filled with anxiety. The visitors had promised not to harm our workers and asked only to take food for their needs. That incredibly stupid husband of mine had replied, "Who is David, who is this son of Jesse? Shall I take my bread, my water, and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it unto men whom I know not whence they be?"

I could appreciate the man's desperation in daring to tell the story. "Mistress," he said wringing his hands, "those men were good to us when we were in the fields. They protected our livestock from wolves. Do something," he implored, "No one can speak to the master. We will all be slaughtered. The army of David is 600 strong."

No one estimates numbers more accurately than shepherds! I moved with haste directing the servants to assemble food parcels. Within a short time the asses were laden. I made a quick list: 200 loaves of bread, 2 large bottles of wine, 5 measures of parched corn, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs. The procession departed with haste, thankfully my husband was visiting a neighbour. I mounted a donkey and followed the servants. My men met David's army halfway down the hillside. As I came abreast, David was ranting. I dismounted in haste and prostrated myself before the man of might. I begged he hear the words of his handmaiden. I apologized for my husband, explaining he was bound by folly and took the blame on myself. I urged David to accept my gifts and to take whatever he required without soiling his hands by needless shedding of blood. It was a desperate move. Women do not present themselves before warriors without invitation.

This warrior listened to my words and asked me to stand. I looked him straight in the eye even though I was inwardly quaking. I'll never forget his words—"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who sent you this day to meet me. Blessed be your discretion, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from blood-guilt and from avenging myself with my own hand. Go in peace to your house, for I have harkened to your voice and to your person. I grant your petition."

I rushed back home to find Nabal feasting with a few friends. It was lucky I had not totally depleted our larder, and most fortunate that I had not touched Nabal's wine supply. The men were drinking like kings and had become very merry. Next morning, in the sober light of day, I told Nabal what had passed, and his heart died within him. With all pompousness drained, he became as a dead man and after ten days he ceased even to breathe. I had dared wonder if David may offer a condolence but dismissed the thought as silly. However, in due time a messenger came but the message was not of condolence. It was a request to consider marriage. I took five of my handmaidens and gladly joined the court of David. Now, there is peace in the land, and I have born him a son, Prince Chileab.

Peacemaking 101

Learnings From the Ministries of Peacemakers Over the Years

by Mark Koenig

Peacemaking is rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
Peace is a gift from God. The biblical vision of peace encompasses the justice and well-being that God intends for all creation. In a world wounded by sin, God offers healing, wholeness, mercy, and justice. God calls the followers of Jesus Christ to share the gospel message of peace by seeking to heal brokenness wherever they encounter it. God calls the followers of Jesus Christ to be peacemakers.

Peacemaking is our calling in all arenas of life.
Peace is not just the absence of war or conflict. The biblical concept of shalom proclaims that peace involves wholeness and right relationships in all of life. Peacemakers seek to offer peace wherever we encounter brokenness: in individual lives, families, congregations, communities, between nations, and with creation.

Peacemaking is the task of the whole church.
Peacemaking is not just the ministry of individuals or of a committee. Effective peacemaking is integrated throughout the life of congregations and governing bodies in the worship and educational experiences, in the ministries of the various groups and committees, and in the way things are done, and in the ways people relate to one another.

Peacemaking is an enterprise of justice.
Peace will never be achieved as long as injustice exists. The biblical witness repeatedly affirms that those who are committed to peace are called to stand with those who are poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged and to advocate for justice for all of God's creation. Peacemakers confront injustice wherever it is encountered and work for change.

Peacemaking is proclaiming Good News.
Peacemakers work out of their experience of God's peace in Jesus Christ. Individually, we know God's peace as salvation. Corporately we share that peace when we engage in ministries that promote justice and righteousness. When we support safe houses for battered women, build bridges of understanding across the chasm of racism, advocate for laws that promote just and equitable lives for all people, or listen to a friend, we connect peacemaking and evangelism.

Peacemaking is working in partnership.
We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. We find partners in ministry in our families, congregations, community, denomination, and faith-based and secular organizations in this country and around the world. We pray for each other, co-operate on projects, and provide encouragement as we each seek to respond to God's call. Peacemakers may work individually but they rarely work alone.

Peacemaking is a lifelong journey.
Peacemaking is a long haul commitment to a way of living, not a program that is done once and for all. At different times, faced with different situations, we engage in different ministries of peacemaking. Peacemakers recognize that individuals, congregations, and groups are at different places on that journey and seek to meet them where they are.

Peacemaking is joyous and hopeful.
Peacemakers are too well aware of humanity's potential for sin to be optimists. Instead, peacemakers are people of hope, connected to God's vision of peace that reminds us the world does not need to be the way it is. God's vision calls us to imagine new possibilities. God's vision sustains us as we work to bring those possibilities into reality, reminding us that God's will, will be done.

Peacemaking is fun.
Peacemaking involves laughter, smiles, dancing, and singing. Peacemakers make wonderful colleagues and friends. Celebrating small steps, little victories and moments of grace amazing, helps sustain peacemakers for the long haul.

Peacemaking is best done peaceably.
The ends are always inherent in the means. Peacemaking is not just about what we do, it is about how we live and how we relate to others. Peacemakers do not avoid conflict but develop healthy processes for working through conflict and skills for dealing with tough issues. Respect for others, especially those with whom we disagree, is key to peacemaking.

Peacemaking is an act of trust.
Inspired by God's vision, peacemakers engage in ministry as we are called using the gifts God has given to us. Peacemakers seek to bring God's promised future into being, trusting God to guide and bless our efforts—sometimes in ways we cannot even begin to imagine!

Mark Koenig is the associate for resources and publications, Peacemaking Program, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This article was provided by Horizons, *the magazine for Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

Acting for Justice

by Julie Taylor

How do you get involved with social action? Let me explain this by telling my story. For nine years, I directed a hunger education and action program called Harvest of Hope—part of the Society of St. Andrew's ministry. Our programs introduced people to the reality of hunger in our world today, engaged people in a tangible effort to alleviate hunger, and enlisted people's ongoing participation in hunger efforts.

The goal was to change lives by creating hunger advocates. One tool we used was a video called "Remember Me," produced by UNICEF. I must have watched the video more than 100 times. It features 10 children from impoverished communities around the world talking about their lives and dreams. One of the children, Luis Molina of Guatemala, shares the story of his family, who had been uprooted by an earthquake. For years, I listened to a line in the video that says, "Luis could not go to school because he had no shoes." I felt called to send shoes to Luis and children like him.

During my seventh year with Harvest Hope, I had a new thought about these words. It finally occurred to me to question why Luis needed shoes to go to school. What do shoes have to do with a child's ability to learn? In that moment, I began to consider the injustice that prevents children—and adults—from accessing opportunities that could open the world to them.

About this time, I was becoming more involved in my local unit of United Methodist Women. In response to a campaign, Making the World Safe for Children and Youth in the 21st Century, the unit sponsored an event to raise issues children faced in our community. It was a small town, so many local politicians and leaders participated:

- The police chief reported on local crimes involving children as victims and perpetrators.
- A family-court judge talked about children who appeared before him and how he tried to address them, especially on first offenses.
- A spokeswoman from Child Protective Services talked about her cases.
- The superintendent of schools shared his challenges.
- Others represented media, church health care, and the department of social services.

It was an enlightening evening. A small group banded together after the meeting to continue the process. Members of the group met monthly to gather more in-depth information from the speakers, and asked each of them three questions:

- What can you tell us about the children of the community?
- What would you like to see happen?
- Looking at us—a small group of mostly older women—what would you suggest we do to help?

We got requests to become mentors to youth and to chaperone and provide refreshments for youth activities. Some speakers asked us to talk to the city council about funding youth programs. Others asked for help staffing displays about their programs and services at community events. Others asked us to recruit tutors. Some wanted us to help connect local services.

Our next direction became clear. We needed to work with others, so we partnered with another local church of a different denomination, different race, and different economic status. That partnership grew to a non-denominational, Christian gathering and eventually into a community-wide effort when it allied with the local Red Cross. This community group now provides after-school programming and summer day camp for children from low-income neighbourhoods.

Finding Your Way

My story is one way to do social action. There are many others. At the heart of engaging social action—embracing "social holiness" in John Wesley's words—is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is full of Jesus living his life beyond the boundaries of his organized religious community. Faithful to that community, Jesus taught, healed, conversed, and encountered people outside the walls of synagogues or temples.

When Jesus confronted injustice, he challenged learned people of faith and the religious establishment. His death was a witness against the occupying Roman government—a reminder that God's kingdom is not of this world.

When Jesus touched the untouchable, spoke to women, ate with tax collectors, and allowed a prostitute to touch him, he demonstrated a lifestyle of social action that meets real life. He offered social action aligned with personal piety as a model for faithful living.

Social action begins with homework. Too often we seek change for others without asking the people, who are involved, what they need and how to proceed. Too often we fail to see others already working for the change we seek. Homework includes listening to those in need and others in your community, who share your concerns, whether they are people of faith or secular allies.

By working with others, we avoid duplication of services and competition for money and volunteers. Working with others facilitates comprehensive, holistic responses and change. Consulting and following the lead of those most impacted leads to real change by those with the greatest needs.

Julie Taylor is executive secretary for children, youth, and family advocacy for the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries based in Washington, D.C. This article was provided by Response, *the magazine of United Methodist Women.*

Glad Tidings Wins Award!

Glad Tidings earned third place in the publication redesign category at the recent Associated Church Press (ACP) convention in Nashville on April 26, 2005.

Congratulations also to Amy MacLachlan of the *Presbyterian Record* for winning first place for her story, "East Toronto Presbytery says no to Temporary Approval of Same-Sex Marriage" in the magazine news story category.

A Peaceful Talk

continued from page 8

She still volunteers by keeping financial records for the shelter and a couple other organizations. Working for peace and justice is a lifelong task. Sometimes it is all consuming, sometimes it is one aspect of a very busy and full life. It's not just what we do that matters, it is how we live our lives. Being a peacemaker means treating others with dignity and respect, even when we disagree. It means meeting people where they are on their peacemaking journey, not where we want them to be. Tell me Esther, what is your vision for a more peaceful world? What peacemaking do you want to do?"

Esther thought a moment. "I really want to help the people of Colombia."

"Is this trip the only way to do that?" Elizabeth inquired.

Esther reflected, "People are going to Washington to talk to a senator about Colombia."

"Maybe you could go along," said Elizabeth. She turned in her chair as the doorbell rang. "Who could that be?"

As Elizabeth started down the hallway, she heard Esther pick up the phone and after a few moments say, "Hey, Mom. It's Esther."

Sara Lisherness is the co-ordinator for the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. This article was provided by Horizons, *the magazine for Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

BOOKMARKS

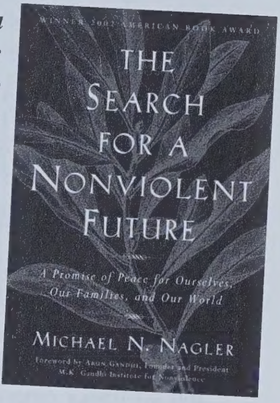
Searching for Non-Violence: Solutions to Peace

by Gayle Aldrich

I think about peace often. I want peaceful relationships, peace with my work, spiritual peace, peace at the very core of my soul. I believe that people are essentially born good and peaceful, but somewhere along the line, circumstances change and the potential for evil enters.

It doesn't help that depictions of violence are so plentiful in the media —in print, cinema, network and cable TV, popular music, on-line. I even see it in cartoons. I can hardly find a movie that is free of violence. I find myself frequently turning off the screen or radio, and I am becoming more selective of what I will allow into my world so that I won't feel so besieged by violence. Violence and negativity have to stop somewhere.

Is violence really more prevalent today or do we just hear about it more? How can we as a society continue to hope to bring peace to our world, nation, community, and homes, if we are constantly inundated with images of violence, both real and imaginary? Support from others who want a more peaceful world is helpful. Faith is vital. But finding peace must begin within us, individually. Each one of us can play an important role in making the world a more peaceful place.


THE SEARCH FOR A NONVIOLENT FUTURE
A Promise of Peace for Ourselves, Our Families, and Our World
MICHAEL N. NAGLER

***The Search for a Nonviolent Future: A Promise of Peace for Ourselves, Our Families, and Our World* by Michael N. Nagler, Inner Ocean**

By looking at the history of non-violence, this book offers a clear picture of peace and all it stands for. Nagler reminds us that we are challenged as never before to deal with violence because of its pervasiveness in mass media. Whether or not there is actually more violence in our world, we hear about it all the time, thanks to modern communication channels. He points out that hearing about violence constantly makes us feel that our personal security is threatened. Paradoxically, Nagler suggests, because the media inform us so well about violence, they actually trivialize it in our minds. And, as a consequence, we don't talk about what to do about it. In fact, he says, we even avoid thinking about it. To think about violence would mean thinking about the "negative sides of human nature, which means the most negative sides of ourselves," he writes.

In his book, Nagel investigates the history of non-violence and outlines the experiences of peace activists, spiritual giants, and farsighted politicians. His thorough research is evident in the nine-page index.

Nagel answers the questions: What is violence? How can we stop it? What can I, as an individual, do in my daily life today to make a difference for peace? How can I make a contribution to a problem that seems almost insoluble?

As this book demonstrates, peaceful acts that begin in your home or community can affect a life down the block, across town, or on the other side of the world. Nagel, a peace scholar and professor emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, offers practical suggestions for ways we can work toward a non-violent future. I highly recommend this winner of the 2002 American Book Award.

FURTHER READING

Louder Than Bombs: The Progressive Interviews by David Barsamian, South End Press

Corporate power, foreign policy, the media, and propaganda: What are we to make of the direction our world is moving? In interviews published in *The Progressive* magazine, Barsamian talks to such activists, academics, and celebrities as Ralph Nader, Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, and Danny Glover about their passions and hopes for the future. The people interviewed are looking toward positive change to make our world a better place. Social critics address issues from bioengineered food to homelessness to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Questions of values are discussed, such as why we make the choices we do as individuals, as communities, and as a country. This is a book about learning from the past and looking forward to a hopeful future.

The Peacegiver: How Christ Offers to Heal Hearts and Homes by James L. Ferrell, Deseret Book Company

Everyone who goes through a process of self-discovery faces feelings, thoughts, or beliefs that have puzzling origins. In *The Peacegiver*, you will find stories, parables, and events that will give you insight into confronting both the storms and the bright spots in your life. The book speaks to those who live in a world at war and battle smaller wars within us. How do we give or gain forgiveness? Where does redemption come into play? And how do we make a success of hurtful relationships? Ferrell outlines how we can find peace in all circumstances through the hope and healing of Christ. This book is filled with parables and stories that teach, inspire, and help us learn from those who came before us.

Gayle Aldrich is a writer and marketing specialist who lives in Minneapolis, Minn. This article was provided by Lutheran Woman Today, *the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Peace Resources

***A Spirituality of Resistance: Finding a Peaceful Heart and Protecting the Earth* by Roger Gottlieb, Rowman & Littlefield**

In a time when so many self-help books focus on examining and fixing the individual, this book about spirituality and finding personal peace challenges the reader to look at the world and people around him or her. A beautiful blend of social and political conscience with spirituality, *A Spirituality of Resistance* offers a path to a peaceful heart in challenging times.

***The Impossible Will Take a Little While: A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear* edited by Paul Rogat Loeb, Basic Books**

More than 50 authors, political leaders, and activists contributed inspiring essays, poems, and stories to this anthology. The selections depict harsh realities of depression, war, poverty, violence, and injustice of many kinds, but end with glimpses of human compassion and hope. Contributors include Diane Ackerman, Marian Wright Edelman, Nelson Mandela, Henri Nouwen, Desmond Tutu, and Margaret Wheatley.

***Peacework* by Henri Nouwen, Orbis Books**

Peacework offers a three-fold path for Christians to embrace Jesus' ethic of peacemaking. First, peacemaking is more than a matter of carrying placards or opposing war. It must begin with a life of prayer, a movement from "the dwelling place" of fear and hatred and into the house of God. Next Nouwen urges us to "resist the powers of death"—not just in the form of armies and armaments, but in our everyday selfishness and bondage to destructive consumer values. Finally, he shows us how to celebrate life and to build communities in which love, forgiveness, and compassion bind us in solidarity with a wounded world.

***The Peace Book* by Todd Parr, Little Brown**

Children ages 4–8 will appreciate this colourful illustrated book that offers a simple introduction to peace. The descriptions of peace are only one sentence, such as "Peace is learning another language," but hint at values that are essential to peacemaking—learning and caring about others, sharing, forgiveness, and justice.

***What Does Peace Feel Like?* by Vladimir Radunsky, Atheneum**

When the author asked children at the Ambrit International School in Rome what peace felt like, he got many interpretations. He collected the answers and illustrated their thoughts about what peace looked, smelled, tasted, and felt like. Ideal for helping you, your children, or grandchildren think about peace, the book also offers the best of what peace can be—"like everyone's heart beating, making one big sound together."

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Here is a collection of my memories from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank /Presbyterian World Service & Development wheat seed distribution that took place in Sub-Carpathian Ukraine in September/October 2004. This project was implemented to help small farming families that were affected by two devastating floods.

We had anticipated that the number of applicants for the 2004 wheat seed distribution would be significantly larger than in 2003. By word of mouth alone, we knew that more people would be informed about the event. As in 2003, participants were asked to complete an application form that would decide whether they were eligible to receive seed from the program. Although the program was only able to give seed to approximately 300 people, we estimated that we would receive somewhere close to 500 applications. The magnitude of the application process was revealed, however, when the two-foot stack of applications was finally collected—we had received approximately 1000 applications!

Our window of opportunity to distribute the seed to give the farmers enough time to sow their wheat was fading—it needed to be planted in early October. If the weather did not stay mild and dry, then the farmers would not be able to get to their fields because of the mud. We needed to act quickly.

Believe me, if writing and posting 1000 letters seems like a daunting task in Canada, then one should experience what it is like in the boondocks of Ukraine. If you buy tape, then it does not stick. If you want to buy envelopes with stamps, then you have to argue (in another language) with the clerk in the post office to sell them to you. You have to hope that the electricity remains constant. Perhaps most importantly, you must remember to stay away from street dogs and open manholes as you ride your bike from here to there.

After a few long days, we managed to get the applications analyzed, the letters printed, and (thanks to the help of Sonya Henderson—a fellow Presbyterian Church in Canada missionary), the envelopes stuffed. After a sleepless night, Sonya and I jumped in the car and headed to various village post offices to deliver the news. We had finally accepted the 300 families, who were found to be the most in need according to the project's criteria. These post offices are used to delivering a dozen or so letters each day. When I plopped the bundles of envelopes on the clerks' counters, they literally looked back at me as if I was playing some sort of practical joke. Once I explained that I was working with the seed project, their expressions quickly turned from bewilderment to excitement. I soon realized from this response that this gift of wheat, this potential boost to a family's livelihood was not only important but perhaps essential to many.

We pulled into the village of Szaszfalu to deliver a bundle of letters. This is a Ukrainian-speaking village, and I knew that the task of delivering and explaining the large bundle of letters would be difficult because I can only speak a few words in Ukrainian. As I approached the post office, I noticed an older gentleman staring at me. The gentleman meant no harm, he was simply curious as to why I had stopped in the village. He happened to speak Hungarian, not perfectly, but when I explained to him that I was there to deliver letters regarding the wheat seed distribution he took my hand and shook it vigorously. He then led me inside the town hall where the post office was located. He told the post office employees, in Ukrainian, who I was and why I had a bundle of letters to send. I did not understand anything that he said to them, but the only reason I know that he told them this is because they too immediately became excited and wanted to shake my hand.

As I left the town hall with the elderly man, he asked me a flurry of questions: Why had I come all this way to do this? Where did the seed come from? Who sent the seed? Why would anyone want to give us seed? I answered as well as I could. I told him that the seed was a gift from Canadian Presbyterians who had heard that there were farmers in need here in Ukraine. I further explained that these Canadians are Christians who feel it is their duty and pleasure to give to others who may be in need. He was truly amazed at the fact that people so far away could care so much. He was also impressed by the fact that it came from Canada, a country that is well-known in the region. It seems every family has a cousin, uncle, or sister who has long ago emigrated to places like Winnipeg, Toronto, or Saskatchewan. He expressed that he was going to pray that he would be accepted to receive seed. I told him that I also hoped that he would be one of the beneficiaries.

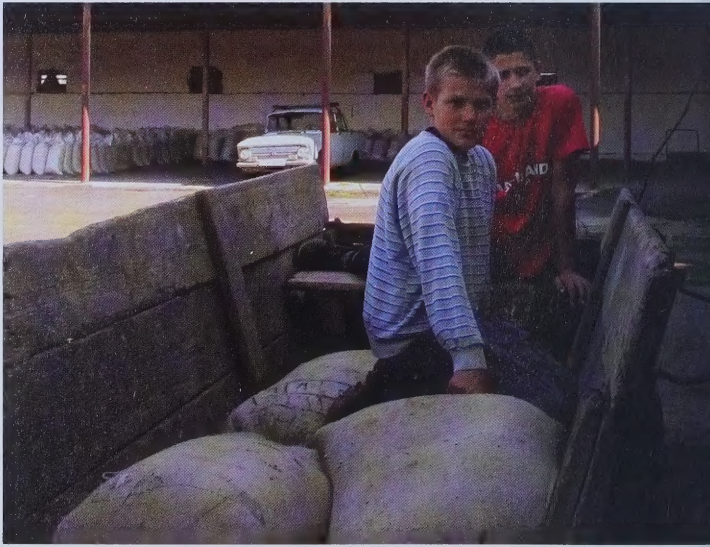
Sonya and I finally delivered all of the letters. The next step was the actual distribution of the seed that had been bagged and set out. We awaited the arrival of the 300 beneficiaries. We knew that once the people arrived to pick up the seed that at best it would resemble organized chaos. We were nervous. Slavic, my Ukrainian colleague in the project, was more anxious than I was. I was worried about the weather. Slavic was worried about the cops coming to shut us down. An absurd idea, I thought. Why would the police, or any government official worry about what we were doing? If they wanted, they could come and see that we were doing the Lord's work by distributing some planting seed to needy people in the community. What could they do to us? I rationalized that Slavic was probably just being paranoid.

The weather was beautiful during the three days of the distribution. I remember the drives to the distribution warehouse during those three mornings —the sunrises were breathtaking. The traffic, however, was not so good —and cars were not the problem. Actually, I think I was the only car on the road. Nevertheless, through the few villages that I needed to pass through in order to get to the distribution centre, I became stuck in the congestion of the local herd of cows heading out to pasture for the day. Although more natural, I can tell you that this type of *traffic* can be just as slow, stressful, and smelly as any morning traffic jam!

Similar to the 2003 distribution, beneficiaries arrived in all different types of transport. Even though there were a few arguments about butting in line and regarding the acceptance or non-acceptance of a neighbour, things went relatively smoothly. People were genuinely grateful for the gift of seed. They were excited about the good weather and the potential of planting the seed in ideal conditions. Everything was fine, until Slavic's nightmare came true. During the second day of the distribution, we had an unexpected guest. The mayor of a neighbouring village arrived to tell us that he had strong ties with the local police. He said that he would be back later for our answer. "What answer," I thought. When he left, Slavic told me that the mayor wanted two bags of wheat seed as payment for him not to tell his police "buddies" to come and shut the distribution down.

Slavic was absolutely dejected. He told me that he could not understand how some people could be so cruel as to shut a humanitarian project down for no reason, just to receive two bags of seed. We could not believe that after all of the hard work and good intentions, we were at this stage: forced to bribe the rich in order to support the poor. We decided that the compromise of two bags of seed to the corrupt mayor was better than the closing of the entire distribution. Later, when the mayor returned, it seemed surreal when I loaded two bags of seed into his new car. I wanted to explain to him that stealing this seed was literally stealing from God. This was a Christian distribution project to help the poor. Unfortunately, I do not speak Ukrainian. I loaded the bags reluctantly. The mayor chuckled, didn't say thank you, and left.

Saturday was the third and biggest day of the distribution. We went ahead as planned. True to his word, the mayor did not have the program shut down. It turned out that I had a nice surprise that day. I met a familiar face who for a second I just could not place. I guess so much had transpired that I completely forgot about the encounter with the elderly man in Szaszfalu. He came and gave me an even bigger handshake. "I made it," he said. "I got accepted." We discussed the weather and the planting of the wheat. I tried to urge him to plant the wheat as soon as possible because it was getting late into the fall. He agreed, and said: "But tomorrow I won't plant. Tomorrow's Sunday and I will go to the Church to thank God for this gift. I will start to plant on Monday." He rode off with his son and their bags of seed in their old Soviet wreck of a car. I hope he has a great harvest.



At the end of it all, Slavic, Sonya, and I distributed 60 tons of seed to 300 people. The planting conditions were ideal. It turned out to be a long, warm autumn so the newly planted grain received a great start. Please pray with me for the farmers in this project, so that they might have a bountiful harvest this summer. Let us also pray for the entire country of Ukraine as it goes through so many difficult changes.

90TH ANNUAL WMS COUNCIL

MAY 1-4, 2005

LIVING A CARING FAITH: HIV AND AIDS AWARENESS

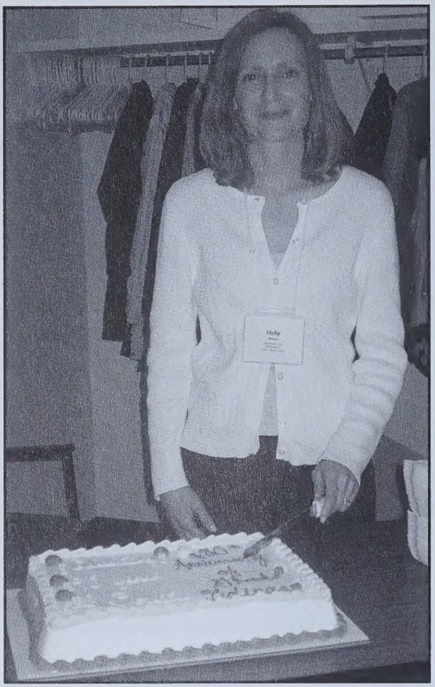
CRIEFF HILLS COMMUNITY

Sunday, May 1, 2005

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Council delegates from across Canada gathered for their annual Council meeting at scenic Crieff Hills Community in Ontario.* The opening evening session began with welcome addresses and introductions by WMS President Margaret McGillivray. Margaret also introduced a special guest, Helen Humphreys, President of the Atlantic Mission Society (AMS).

ancy Miller and Eunice Bisset performed a umorous skit of a couple bickering while driving.

To acknowledge and celebrate *Glad Tidings*' 80th anniversary, members of the editorial committee, Merle McGowan, Joan Hilliard, Barbara Marshall, and Joan Smith, read excerpts from *Glad Tidings* for each decade that the magazine has been in print. Editor Holly Wilson concluded the presentation by stating that although in her research she was deliberately looking for generational differences in the magazine, she was most struck by its consistency over the years. Holly stated, "*Glad Tidings* has remained constant in its focus on mission and constant in communicating the determined spirit of the WMS."



Holly Wilson cuts the anniversary cake celebrating 80 years of *Glad Tidings* magazine and the 90th WMS Annual Council.

*Crieff Hills is a Christian retreat and conference centre that is owned and operated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC).

Monday, May 2, 2005

In a brief address to Council, AMS President Helen Humphreys mentioned that since the beginning of the AMS in 1876 the Society has changed its name five times. "Missionary" was replaced with the word "mission" and "woman" was deleted so that the Society would be open to all youth and adults. She also mentioned that the AMS is proud of its publication *The Presbyterian Message* and that if anyone is interested in learning more about this magazine or the AMS, they are welcome to visit the web site: www.presbyterian.ca/ams.

WMS President Margaret McGillivray (left) and AMS President Helen Humphreys

Bible Study: Karen Plater, who has worked for Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) for the past nine years, led the morning Bible study. Karen began by quoting from John 9:1–4, "As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.'"

In her presentation, Karen said that in the past the Church had wrongly asked the question of who had sinned

Karen Plater (right) discussing the upcoming HIV/AIDS study with Lynda Reid.

with its approach to those affected by HIV and AIDS. Karen asked the group: "How can we approach this disease so that God can be seen at work through our response to those suffering from HIV and AIDS?" Karen's Bible study was informative and well received by the delegates. The group learned much about HIV, which is an abbreviation of Human Immunodeficiency Virus, and AIDS, an acronym for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. She explained that HIV may be transmitted in four ways: by blood transfusion, sexual intercourse, tainted needles, and from mother to child in the womb, during the birthing process, or through breast milk.

The staggering number of people infected with HIV and AIDS worldwide is 34 to 46 million. Since the disease was first identified in 1981, 20 million people have died from AIDS and an estimated 14 million children have been orphaned as a result. In Canada, there are approximately 55,000 people infected with HIV.

Delegates experienced the face of AIDS as they read real stories of people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. In the stories, caregivers, orphans, and people living with HIV expressed their thanks for the Church programs that are making a real difference in their lives. Karen finished the study by reading the story of the ten lepers healed by Christ (Luke 17:11–19). She said, "Like with the ten lepers, some may thank us for this work—others may never know we helped. But, like Christ, we continue to reach out to all in love and compassion, whoever they may be, and whether or not we will be thanked or recognized."

Resolutions:

- A notice of motion from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario asking for section V-4 of the Bylaws be changed to read: …elected delegates …3 from each of the 4 Western Synodicals…and 1 from Western Han Ca Presbyterial…was discussed. There was some concern that this would result in the loss of western representation at Council. It was decided that the matter be discussed with individual Synodicals and revisited at the next Council meeting.
- A resolution from Toronto and Kingston Synodical to review the

Merle McGowan (right) with Saskatchewan Regional Staff representative Jennifer Bell

place of the Women's Missionary Society in the life and mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada was presented. The resolution was referred to Council Executive for consideration at their next meeting.

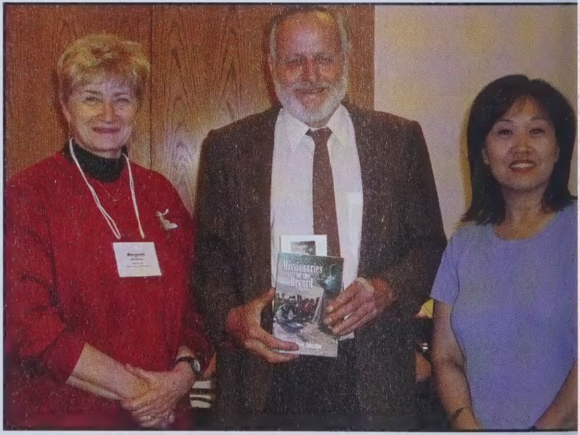
- Finally, a resolution from the Synodical of Quebec and Eastern Ontario was discussed. The motion requested that the WMS Council urge the Life and Mission Agency to make a special effort to promote the Camping Ministries within The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and to provide funds to help meet the immediate needs of upgrading the water and septic systems as required by provincial regulations. The motion carried.

Mission Projects for 2006:

- Canada
  - \$10,000 to Crieff Hills Community for updating water systems
- International
  - \$5000 to Rick Allen for the Bookmarker Project of the HIV/AIDS Control Program
  - \$5000 for Blantyre Synod, toward an orphanage
  - \$5000 for Livingstonia Synod, toward an orphanage
  - \$10,000 Chigodi Women's Centre, Malawi

Special Grants were approved from Undesignated Legacies:

- To assist both Gracefield Camp (\$10,000) and Camp d'action biblique (\$5,000) with the upgrading of their water systems as required by the provincial government.
- Last year, the WMS approved a grant to add classrooms to the Jobat Christian School on the Bhil field in India. It was later learned that the present building is not safe and, therefore, a new building is required. It was agreed to grant \$25,000 in 2005 and \$20,000 in 2006 to make this happen. This will be taken from Undesignated Legacies where a special bequest



Geoffrey Johnston thanked the WMS for contributing to t costs of publishing his book, *Missionaries for the Record.*

from the estate of Mabel Booth is recorded. This new building for the Jobat Christian School will have a plaque dedicated to the memory of Mabel Booth, a diaconal minister, and former Children's Work Secretary of the WMS.

Presentations:

Heather Paton presented a brief overview of her volunteer work at Chigodi Women's Centre in Blantyre Synod, Malawi.

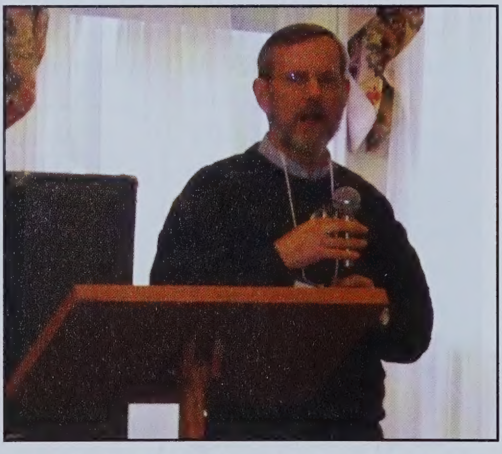
Through the WMS' support of Chigodi Women's Centre, the Paper Making Education Trust in Blantyre trained 12 women. They were given the skills to use the materials purchased by Chigodi to make writing paper, envelopes, picture frames, notebooks, and greeting cards. These local women come to Chigodi three days a week to work and share fellowship. Heather explained that by being part of this project the women will earn a small income to support their families and feel empowered by the knowledge of a unique trade.

Chigodi is counting on the overseas market to make this project a success. To order or buy their products, please contact Heather Paton at 3170 Massey Court, Windsor, Ontario, N9E 2Z5, or e-mail: eertaguh@care2.com.

Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Associate Secretary for Planned Giving, gave a persuasive afternoon presentation. Although the presentation began with some technical difficulties with the microphone ("Am I crackling now? Isn't technology great?"), Herb quickly captured the delegates' attention by bringing new insight into how Presbyterians can support their churches financially. Herb explained that Planned Giving is a type of financial contribution that is long-term and may include assets other than cash, such as property, stocks, and annuities. To

CHIGODI WOMEN'S CENTRE

eather Paton during her presentation



Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Associate Secretary for Planned Giving

Delegates participate in a mission game

learn more about Planned Giving, contact Herb at 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M3C 1J7; by phone 800-619-7301, ext. 278; or by e-mail: hgale@presbyterian.ca.

For the evening program, Karen Plater introduced the upcoming Church study, *Towards a World Without AIDS*. The study has been designed to help churches, WMS groups, and individuals learn more about HIV and AIDS, and discover what they can do to help build a world without AIDS. It weaves together facts and statistics on HIV/AIDS with stories of people living with, and affected by, HIV and AIDS. It includes biblical reflection to help in learning about responding to the pandemic. In addition to learning the practical information, the study explores how Christians can apply this knowledge to whatever they do as they seek to follow Christ.

Building a world without AIDS is more than just teaching how to stop the transmission of HIV; it is also about working together to fight poverty, stigma, and human rights violations that not only accompany AIDS, but also contribute to the spread of HIV. It is about providing access to health care, education, and jobs for all. It is reaching out in love to others, so that all people can live life to the fullest, with hope for today and tomorrow.

Karen Plater gave the delegates a glimpse of:

- how HIV is transmitted.
- the impact of HIV on the lives of individuals, communities, and nations.
- what makes people vulnerable to HIV infection.
- a biblical foundation for work in HIV and AIDS and why it is important that Christians study the pandemic.
- what the WMS can do to support people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS.
- how the HIV/AIDS epidemic presents many challenges to the Church.

The impact of this disease has been felt by churches and the communities they serve. In the past, churches have

> "We don't have to guess what is on God's mind here. It bewilders us that anyone can call themselves followers of Christ and not see that AIDS is the leprosy spoken about in the New Testament. God is at work here."
> Bono from the music band U2

been part of the problem. It is time to be part of the solution. While many local churches have responded to their community's needs, there is much more to be done. The church can and needs to take a much stronger and more informed role in standing with communities to confront this epidemic. This study will help the WMS affirm its place in working toward a world without AIDS.

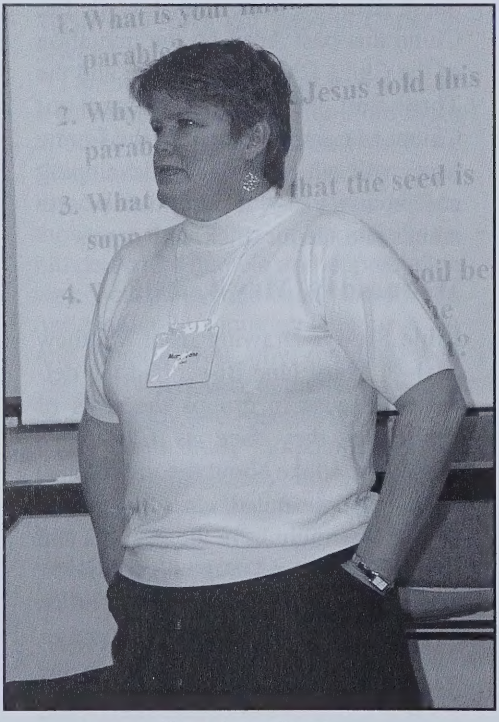
There are many examples of people in churches reaching out in love to people infected with and affected by HIV and AIDS—accepting, caring, and responding where no one else would. As the AIDS pandemic has progressed, more and more churches have responded with compassion and unconditional love. PCC partners in Africa, Asia, and Central America are witnessing the profound impact of HIV/AIDS on women, men, children, and communities. They have realized that they must act, and have wrestled with the physical, sociological, spiritual, and theological implications of this disease.

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

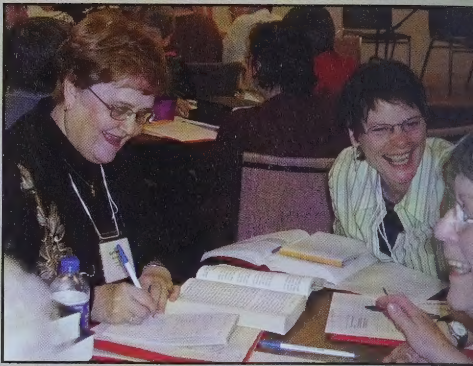
Bible Study: Mary Jane Bisset (Eunice Bisset's daughter) led the morning Bible study. The study focused on Luke 10:25–37, the parable of the Good Samaritan. In groups, Mary Jane encouraged the delegates to humanize the characters of the priest, Levite, and Samaritan. She posed such questions as: "What does compassion mean to you?" and "What does the story say about what kinds of risks you should take?"

Mission Presentation:

In the evening, Ron Wallace, Associate Secretary for International Ministries, joined Council. Ron spoke on the expansion of the Christian movement shifting from Europe to Africa, Latin America, and Asia, and how this has changed the context of how the Church is involved in mission. He also talked about his work and the opportunities he has had to visit PCC partners and missionaries in the field —to hear their hopes and concerns and



Mary Jane Bisset



share in the ministry that they are involved in.

Executive Director Sarah Kim and Ron also shared photos of their 2004 mission exposure trip to Central America.

Additionally, Margaret McGillivray showed slides of her recent trip with Sarah Kim to China. They travelled to China this past April on the invitation of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of China. Margaret mentioned the frantic pace with which China is developing and how its skyline is littered with cranes and the air thick with smog.

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Bible Study: Drawing from Matthew 13:1–8, Mary Jane Bisset had the delegates discuss in groups the sorts of challenges they face as Christians. Mary Jane spoke about the importance of taking time out to care for oneself so that one might have the strength and resources to attend to the needs of others. She compared this to being on an airplane when the oxygen mask comes down—that one must first place the oxygen mask over one's own face before putting it on the next person.

Closing Worship and Communion: The Moderator of the 130th General Assembly, the Rev. Rick Fee, led the closing worship and communion service. Rick spoke about his recent trip to Israel and visit to the new Holocaust museum in Jerusalem. The following are Rick's thoughts on the Church's need to work on ecumenical relations among the Abrahamic faiths:

The three great monotheist religions —Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (also called the Abrahamic faiths)

Joanne Instance installs officers

—have had dramatic relations over the centuries. In this globalized world, is there to be any interaction among them? How are members in each faith to relate to one another? What guidance should church leaders be providing their members in their daily dealings with people of other faiths?

As we explore history, many sad stories of past interactions should give us pause to examine what has been our historical doctrine regarding people of other faiths? Above all else, what is the unique message of the disciples of the Prince of Peace to those followers of Judaism, who still adhere to the Torah as their guide in life?

As an evangelical Christian I know my faith is firmly settled on Jesus Christ, the Rock of Salvation. In this present age, how do I relate in the work place, the market, and the mall to those who have not seen in Christ, a Saviour?

I am not a syncretist, one who takes a little from here and a little from there to come up with a homespun faith. As Christians I believe we should know and be able to express our own faith to those we meet on a day-by-day basis but do so in a humble and appreciative way, accepting that each person has had his/her own journey thus far in life and hoping that any meeting with Jesus Christ now or in the future would be one of joy and receptivity.

Christians today should equip themselves through study and prayer to learn more about the unique expression that Christianity offers the world while remaining open to dialogue with other faith communities.

Offering: The offering went toward the PCC's national campaign on HIV and AIDS.

Forward in Faith

Your gifts live on by remembering the WMS in your Will.

Through undesignated bequests, the Women's Missionary Society is able to assist the following programs of the Church this year:

- Canada Youth 2006
- Presbyterian College students for globalization trip to Cuba
- Elders' Institute for a project to meet the needs of youth, young adults, and ruling elders through the Internet
- Mayan women of Guatemala to train women in theological and social education
- A fence for Jobat Christian School on the Bhil Field, India
- PWS&D's *Towards a World Without AIDS* campaign

Wilma Welsh,
Treasurer

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Katherine Allen for completing the Christian Faith and Life certificate program at Knox College. Friends from Gateway Church came to support Katherine as she received her graduation certificate on May 11th at Knox College's 161st Convocation.

CIRCULATION NEWS

Katherine Allen

As I write this news, another WMS Council meeting has come and gone. On the first night, Council delegates celebrated the 80th anniversary of *Glad Tidings* magazine. Various people read excerpts from the magazine beginning with its inception in 1925. The theme throughout these readings seemed to echo the same as we hear today. How do we increase subscriptions? How do we encourage people to be a part of the WMS? How do we spread the word "mission" throughout the church?

The magazine has continued to tell the story of mission and has shown how mission work has changed over the years. I remember once attending a WMS meeting and someone said that we are all missionaries. So, when we think of the mission of the church, hopefully we see ourselves as part of spreading God's word to everyone. So through *Glad Tidings*, we can reach out to all people.

During the summer months, perhaps you can think of ways you can help to increase the number of subscribers. Promoting the magazine is an ongoing job and sometimes it takes several tries before someone finally responds.

photo: Bella Lam, PWS&D

Fides Nkhota and her demonstration field help farmers learn affordable and sustainable ways to improve their crops.

PWS&D is helping farmers in Malawi improve their crops to better feed their families. With Ekwendeni Hosptial's Soils, Food, and Healthy Communities project, Fides Nkhota has learned how to use soyabeans and pigeon peas to improve soil fertility and provide protein for her family . She has learned how harvesting the crops in time, and proper storage, can minimize post-harvest losses. Her farm is being used as a demonstration field to help other farmers learn new techniques as well.

Help transform lives. Support PWS&D.

Presbyterian World Service & Development
50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 416-441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301
www.presbyterian.ca/pwsd/ pwsd@presbyterian.ca

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ruth Brooks
Alberton, ON

James Campbell
Whitefield
St. Andrew's, Cobourg, ON

Mrs. Annie Ferns
St. Andrew's, Guelph, ON

Dorothy E. Cressman
St. Andrew's, Kitchener, ON

Margaret (Peggy) Henderson
Newmarket, ON
(formerly of Knox, Woodstock, ON and Lucknow, ON)

Mrs. Nora Gibson
Mrs. May Robertson
St. Andrew's, Port Credit, ON

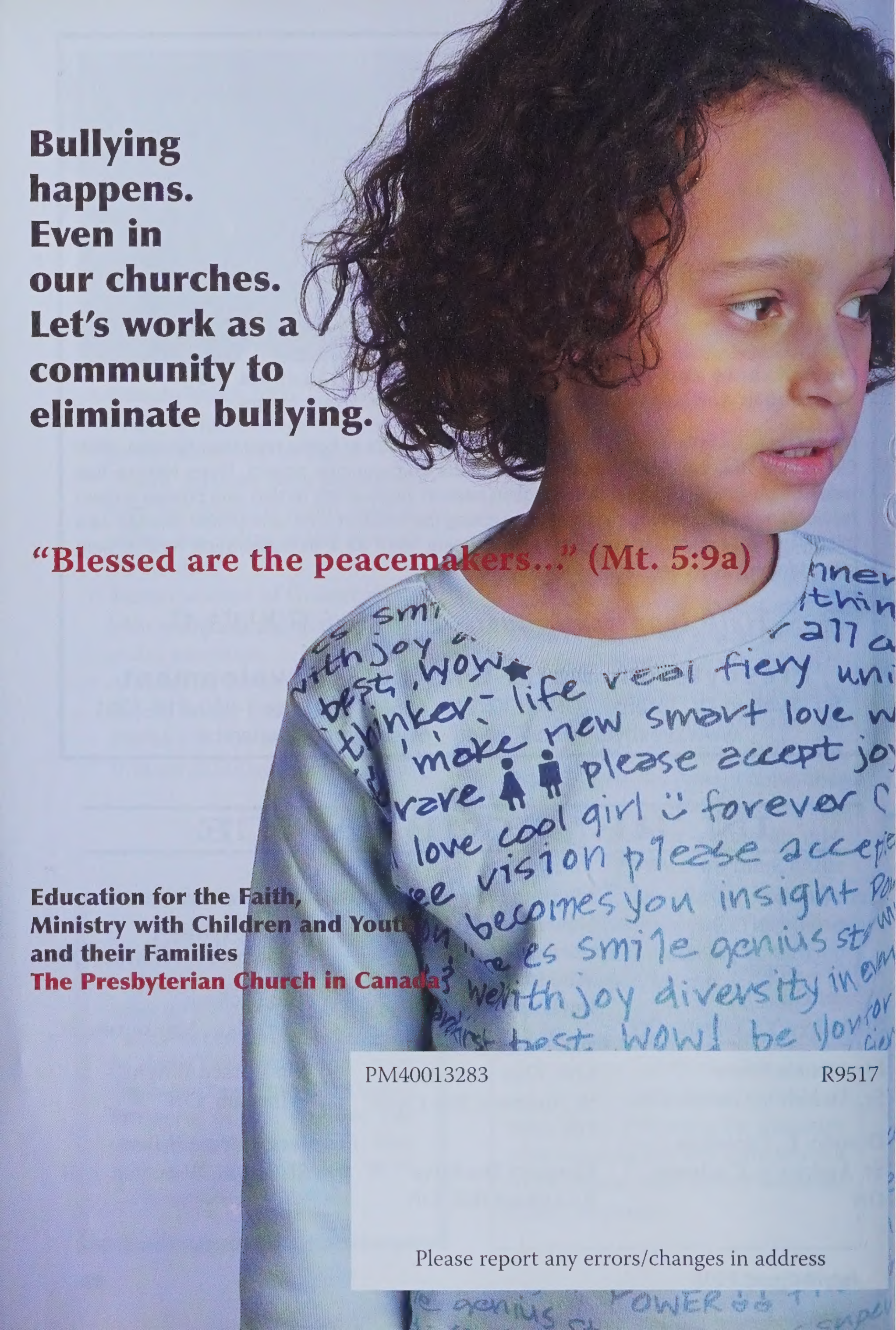
Margaret Docherty
Richmond Hill, ON

Elsie Jones
Mary Davidson
St. James, Stouffville, ON

Cae Dickson
Kerrisdale, Vancouver, BC

Mrs. Grace Wright
Wingham, ON

Jessie Grace Elliott
St. James, Winnipeg, MB


best, wow life real fiery
thinker new smart love
make please accept
brave cool girl forever
love vision please accept
becomes you insight
smile genius
with joy diversity
best wow! be your
genius POWER

Bullying happens. Even in our churches. Let's work as a community to eliminate bullying.

"Blessed are the peacemakers..." (Mt. 5:9a)

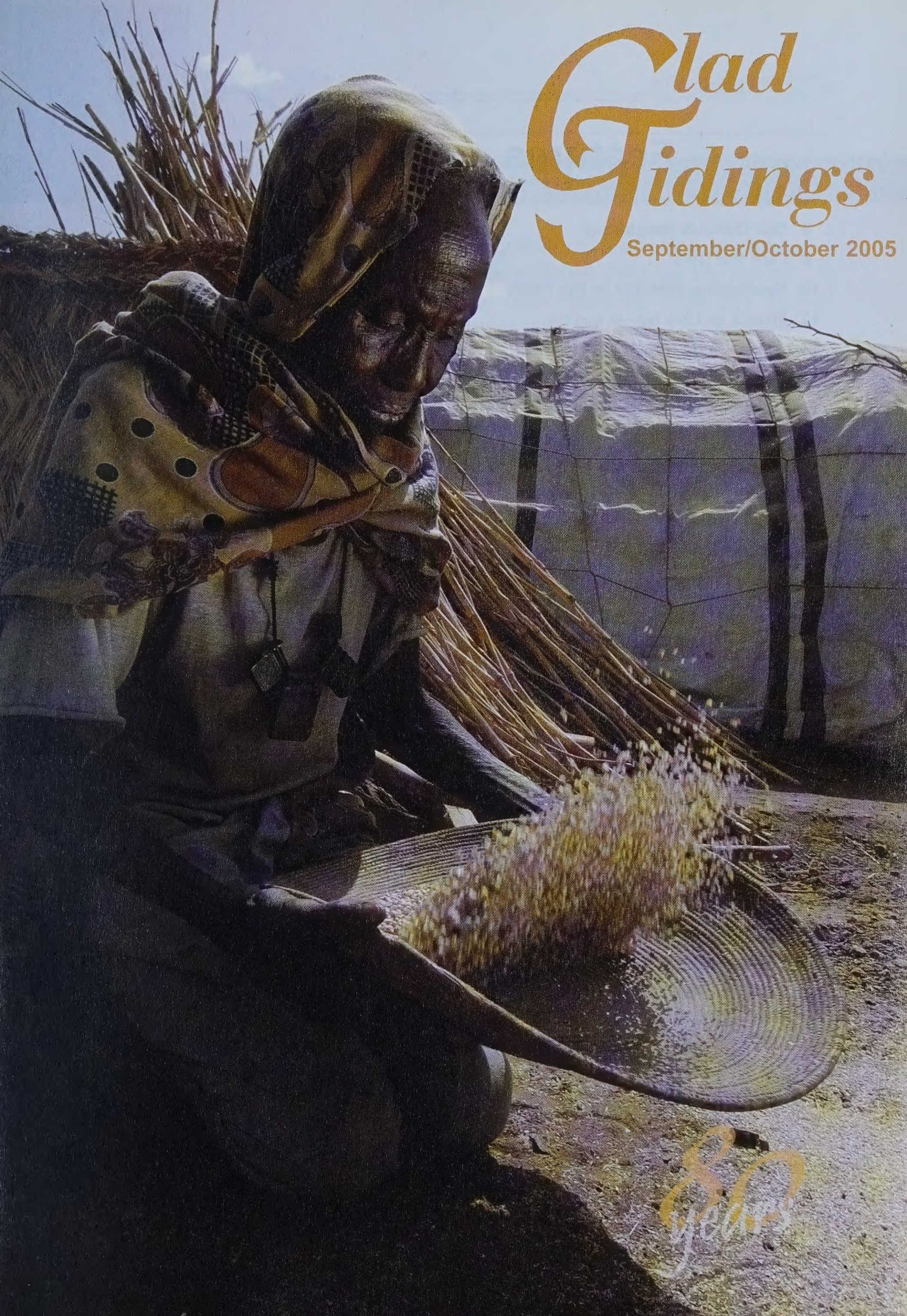
Education for the Faith,
Ministry with Children and Youth
and their Families
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

PM40013283 R9517

Please report any errors/changes in address

Glad Tidings

September/October 2005



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Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

Women in refugee camps in Sudan are grateful to learn how to make fuel-efficient stoves because prior to making these they ran the risk of being raped while foraging for firewood (see News on page 21). As Canadians we have so much to be grateful for—but why do most of us still long for more?

Since April of this year, I have been keeping a gratitude journal. I got the idea from reading a book called *Simple Abundance: A Daybook of Comfort and Joy* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. In her preface of this book, Breathnach admits that she "was an angry, envious woman, constantly comparing [herself] to others only to become resentful because of what seemed to be missing from [her] life." Through her writing, however, she underwent a personal transformation. Breathnach affirms: "*Simple Abundance* has enabled me to encounter everyday epiphanies, find the Sacred in the ordinary, the Mystical in the mundane, [and to] fully enter into the sacrament of the present moment." She suggests that anyone may achieve this state of bliss, and recommends keeping a gratitude journal as the place to start.

Every night before I go to bed, I write down five things that I am grateful for. This might seem like an easy thing to do, but shifting from a place of wanting to a state of appreciation was not second nature to my unruly mind. When I have had a particularly challenging day, I write down the basics—that I am thankful for a full stomach, clothes on my back, and a roof over my head. Other days, I am grateful for an exhilarating swim in the lake, legs that transport me down paths amidst the splendour of maples, or the opportunity to share a good belly laugh with a friend. When you start your gratitude journal, you will be amazed how this simple act will change your perspective on things. During the day, instead of thinking about what you want and don't have, you search for positive things that you can write in your journal. Do this simple act and your life will change for the better—I promise!

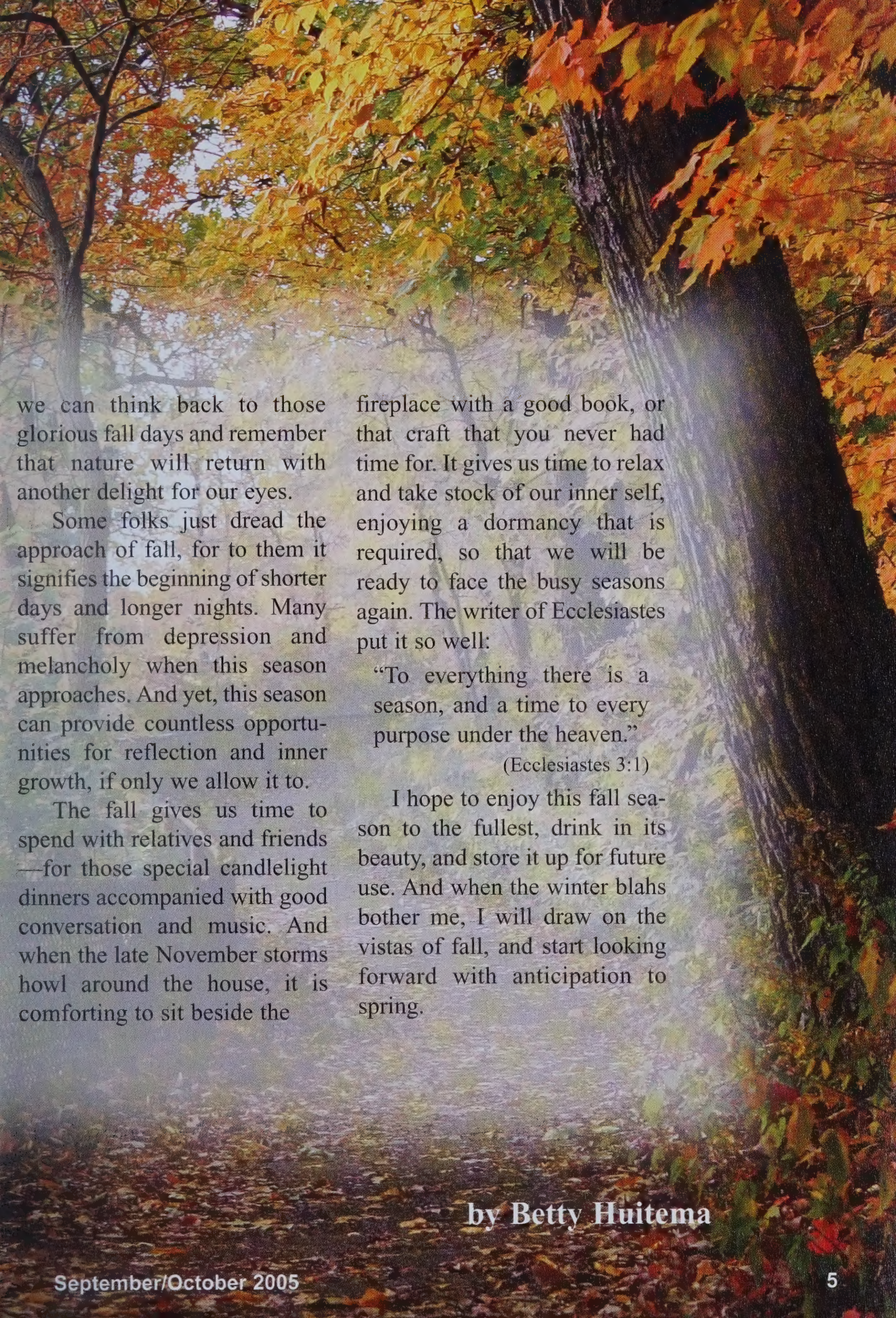
This Thanksgiving, give thanks to our loving, amazing Creator for all the blessings that we, as Canadians, enjoy and remember to pray and give generously to those who do not even have the necessities that we so often take for granted.

FALL

When the squirrels start their hectic search for walnuts, we know that fall cannot be far behind. Who has not seen these diligent creatures busy at work as they store up for the winter months? They seem to know the passing of seasons better than any mortal who follows the calendar. They hoard their store in the most unusual places, often to our chagrin, especially when they seem to have forgotten where they've stored the nuts, and instead start digging up our flower bulbs.

Throughout the summer, the flowers and birds delight us, and the warm temperatures encourage us to spend much time outdoors. In contrast, fall is short-lived, for the colours will last a few weeks at the most. Chrysanthemums in a wide range of colours compete with the gold, red, and orange of the trees. It looks like the Creator has taken a palette and painted a huge canvas far superior to anything produced by either Rembrandt or Van Gogh. No admission is charged for viewing this magnificent panorama; all it requires is for us to take a moment out of our busy lives, just to stand still and observe.

Why is this show so spectacular? I like to think that fall is saying: "Look around, take a mental picture of all this beauty and draw on it when you go through the winter." When the days grow drab and dreary and beauty is nowhere to be found,



we can think back to those glorious fall days and remember that nature will return with another delight for our eyes.

Some folks just dread the approach of fall, for to them it signifies the beginning of shorter days and longer nights. Many suffer from depression and melancholy when this season approaches. And yet, this season can provide countless opportunities for reflection and inner growth, if only we allow it to.

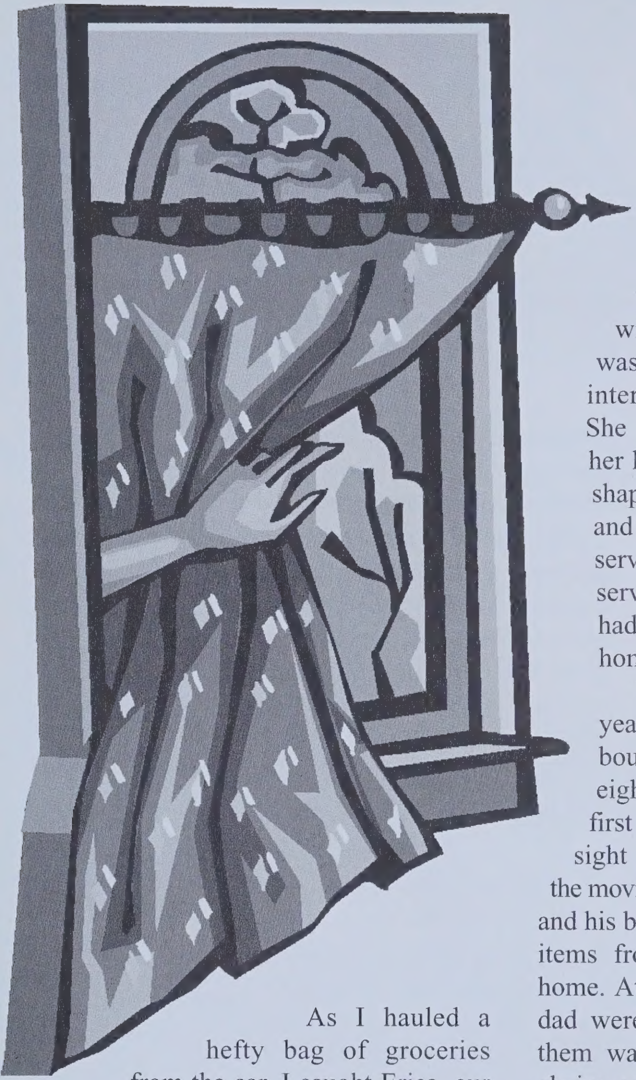
The fall gives us time to spend with relatives and friends—for those special candlelight dinners accompanied with good conversation and music. And when the late November storms howl around the house, it is comforting to sit beside the fireplace with a good book, or that craft that you never had time for. It gives us time to relax and take stock of our inner self, enjoying a dormancy that is required, so that we will be ready to face the busy seasons again. The writer of Ecclesiastes put it so well:

> "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."
>
> (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

I hope to enjoy this fall season to the fullest, drink in its beauty, and store it up for future use. And when the winter blahs bother me, I will draw on the vistas of fall, and start looking forward with anticipation to spring.

by Betty Huitema

Our Difficult



As I hauled a hefty bag of groceries from the car, I caught Erica, our elderly neighbour, staring at me through her bedroom window.

“The reflection of the sun sparkling on your glasses gives you away, Erica,” I chuckled to myself as she snatched her head away from the window when I looked up. Over the years I had become familiar with Erica’s idiosyncrasies. She was a single woman with no interests other than gardening. She kept herself busy by keeping her house and grounds in pristine shape and spying on my husband and me and our four children. She served as an excellent security service. A thief wouldn’t have had a chance to break into our home with Erica watching.

When we moved in several years ago, we sensed our neighbours would be different. I was eight month’s pregnant with our first son so I must have been a sight waddling back and forth to the moving van as I helped my husband and his brother and sister carry smaller items from the truck into our new home. At that time, Erica’s mom and dad were still alive and all three of them watched us soberly from their chairs on their front porch. We felt very uncomfortable having three strangers scrutinize our every move and they made no attempt to be friendly, but just grunted when we said hello.

From day one, Erica felt it was her duty to advise us about how often we should rake the leaves, mow the lawn, and clean the eavestroughs. She complained when my children were too noisy in the backyard and kept me informed of any deviant behaviour such as our four-year-old sticking his tongue out at the milkman.

My tolerance over the years gradually turned into an appreciation of her strengths. Her dad passed away shortly after we had moved in but her mom lived well into her 80s. Then a stroke forced Erica's mom into a nursing home. She faithfully visited her mom several times a week even though it meant enduring a half-hour bus trip to the city and back. Her mom's eventual death must have left her very lonely. By this time Erica was in her 70s but seemed to have become more robust with each passing year.

"I had to work real hard on the farm when I was a girl," she remarked one morning as I helped her rake the autumn leaves. "Being from the city you wouldn't know what that was like."

As she approached her 80s and developed problems with dizziness, my husband picked up her mail each day and we took her shopping every Saturday. When she was being treated for breast cancer, we were there to drive her for checkups and help with her housework. Our family became fond of Erica by this time despite her occasional caustic remarks and unwanted advice. We admired her for her gumption and although she must have often been lonely, she never let on.

In time we moved away, but we missed our built-in security system and Erica's unique outlook on life. I wrote to her over the years and she wrote back. But recently we heard that Erica had died peacefully at the age of 92.

Over the years Erica taught our family about patience and tolerance, and our children learned to show kindness to others without expecting anything in return. Whenever Erica simply took us for granted, the words of writer Eric Maisel encouraged us: "Do not look for love; look for ways to love."

Just a few days after Erica died, I was feeling miserable as I raked leaves on a drab autumn morning. Then suddenly I felt her presence. "Missed a spot, Jeanette. You gotta go slower," I could almost hear her say. And I smiled as I began to rake more carefully.

Neighbour

by Jeanette Brimner

I am the Door

(John 10:9)

by David G. Hawkins

An elementary school teacher's students are acting out a scenery in their drama sessions.

"You'll be a tree, Mary. Stretch out your arms, like this."

"You're a lamppost, John. That means you stand still, like this."

"Betty, you're a mailbox. Stand with your mouth wide open, like this."

And, of course, everyone then and there needs to mail a letter!

Jesus compares himself to a door. Did he model one? Swivel his body, arms outstretched, from side to side, as if he was hinged?

Doors are gates that keep people out as well as allowing them to enter. I recall two signs at a church entrance.

One said, "Welcome!" The other? "Trespassers will be prosecuted!" Doors swing open upon hinges of destiny—or fate. They herald change, for better, or for worse. We all know of someone whose life's energies are spent pushing doors marked "Pull" and pulling at doors marked "Push."

I ascend the steps up to my church's doors. Why invariably steps up to? And why do these "front" doors customarily lead me into the rear of the building, its narthex, foyer, vestibule? Anyway, I move from outdoors to indoors, from ordinary space into an extraordinary place, from secular to a religious frame of reference.

Opening doors reminds us of Paul's words on his beckoning ministry in Ephesus. "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." (1 Corinthians 16:9, KJV) Note the author's preference for the word "and" rather than what you and I might use, what's called the adversative or disjunctive conjunction, "but." "And" indicates the apostle's acceptance that opposition and obstruction are to be part and parcel of the Ephesus job description.

Isn't this like the nature of both the big "C" Church and its local neighbourhood edition, the small "c" church? They're very much like a family, with highs and lows, peaks and valleys, ups and downs, subject to temperaments, idiosyncrasies, and prickly sensitivities. These need patience, magnanimity (great mindedness), and resilience.

Stories invite their characters and, of course, their readers to enter a new life through open doors. For L. Frank Baum, it's a Kansas tornado. For Lewis Carroll, it's a rabbit hole. For Harry Potter, it's London's Victoria Station, Platform 9 ¾. For Christians, Jesus is the open door. Through him, we come in and go out in perfect freedom and peace, to find community, and to work at the world's healing and our own. We are to be gateways too through which others may enter and learn that they are indeed loved by God. For many, it's as if there's a place setting at the table for them, but they've never opened their invitation. It's a matter of giving and finding one's place. "The giving of a place to those who have none seems to me to be one way of defining our vocation as healers of persons," writes Paul Tournier. "One becomes a person only if one has a place." Philosopher William James, as a child, wrote excitedly of a summer home in New Hampshire that his family had acquired. "It is a wonderful house, with all the doors opening outward!"

In John, Jesus says: "Whoever enters by me will be saved." Saved from everlastingly closed doors and saved for abundant life opening outward.

May both Church and church knock persistently upon shut doors that they may open wide to God's Spirit.

Nourishing Mothers in the Faith

by Elizabeth Jobb

". . .women in the faith took me . . . to a place of confidence in my gifts and abilities for ministry."

Theoretically, my Alma Mater was Knox College. I graduated in 1994 and it is quite possible that my years at Knox were some of the most stressful in my entire life. Yet without a doubt, those were the years in which I learned my greatest lessons, when I discovered my strengths and my weaknesses, as a woman heading for ordained ministry.

I said that Knox was theoretically my Alma Mater, "my academic nourishing mother," because that is how it translates, but in reality my real "nourishing mothers" were of a different sort. They were women in the faith who took me, from a long period of gestation and new birth, to a place of confidence in my gifts and abilities for ministry. They also assured me that, for whatever I was lacking, God could use me anyway.

Like a child at my mother's knees, I was truly able to be open and receptive to God's forgiveness, love, acceptance, and grace. As I reflect on those years, I see them not just as academic study, as important as that was, but as a journey on a "Mother Ship" towards a destination that I had never even dreamed of.

It all began at the Guidance Conference, where I was bent on discovering that ordained ministry was NOT for me. Although I really believed that God was calling me into some kind of ministry, I attended that conference expecting affirmation that ordination wasn't the route I should take. I trusted that the counsellors would kindly veer me in another direction so that I could then confidently cross Knox College off my list.

Shortly before attending the Guidance Conference, I had been offered an opportunity to be a teaching assistant for a professor at Carleton University. His study and teaching was on Jewish/Christian relationships in the first century C.E. How exciting I thought it would be to study the richness of that era. Arguing with God and myself, my opinion was that God could use me as a teaching assistant, just as well, if not better than in ordained ministry.

So, it was quite wonderful going into my first interview at the Guidance Conference, free to be myself. I didn't have to try to please anyone. As I sat opposite my counsellor, my first statement was something to the effect that "I really shouldn't be here but I just wanted confirmation that I could rule out ordination." Then I attempted to convince my listener of all the many reasons why it would be foolish for the conference to even consider me for this kind of ministry. Believe me, this was no false modesty! Everything I said was honest-to-goodness truth. I started the ball rolling by saying that I felt like a failure. I had recently been separated from my husband of 19 years. It was a source of great embarrassment for my family and equally so for me.

Then I tried the "Moses approach" and said I was a lousy speaker. Public speaking caused my knees to knock, and my mouth to turn into the Sahara Desert. The words of scripture couldn't come out as they were trapped inside the burning sandy hills of my larynx and tongue. I wasn't kidding; it proved to be true when at a worship that weekend I was unable to finish the scripture reading I had been assigned. You would have thought that I would have been mortified in front of my peers and counsellors at being unable to do such a simple task, but the experience only encouraged my belief that I was definitely in the wrong crowd.

At some point during my interviews, I made a statement that I hadn't even realized was being formulated in my brain: "I wouldn't know how to be a woman minister. I've never even spoken to a woman in ministry until this weekend." It was this statement God was to use to open the doors that would lead me to not only accept, but also embrace, all that I was truly blessed with, especially my womanhood. The recommendation given to me at the end of the weekend was that I should enter Knox College, even with all my reservations, and continue to seek God's will. The other recommendation was that I be given every opportunity to work with and study with women in ministry.

It was during my placement at Glebe Presbyterian in Toronto, in the Chaplain's office at Knox College, and while doing basic and advanced training at St. Michael's Hospital, that I met some amazing women. I was also given a caring and guiding mentor who walked with me through my three years at Knox. I had always enjoyed the kind of linear academic learning that I experienced at York University and at Knox College, but it was experiential learning and the reflections on those experiences that became my preferred method of learning and growing. The women that I had as my teachers practised this method well and encouraged me to do the same. The instruction that I received in placement allowed for honest reflection on myself, which moved me towards growth and change. It also gave me the opportunity to exercise self-direction, discipline, and creativity. During my three years at Knox, I was encouraged to discover my own pastoral image so that I might be grounded and comfortable in my role as a minister.

To my nurturing mothers and sisters in the faith, thank you all.

Elizabeth Jobb, a graduate of Knox College, lives in Amherstburg, Ontario with her husband, Herb, and her two dogs, Chloe and Susie. She is the minister of St. Andrew's Church in Amherstburg.

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Pray for Peace!

International Day of Peace, September 21

Words to Live by

by Tracey Percival

Fill in the puzzle description: Look over the list of words and compare their lengths with the positioning of the letters in them. Then see if you can determine where each word fits in the puzzle grid. When all of the words have been used, you have completed the puzzle.

3-letter word
GOD

4-letter words
HOLY
BODY
WINE
LORD
OBEY

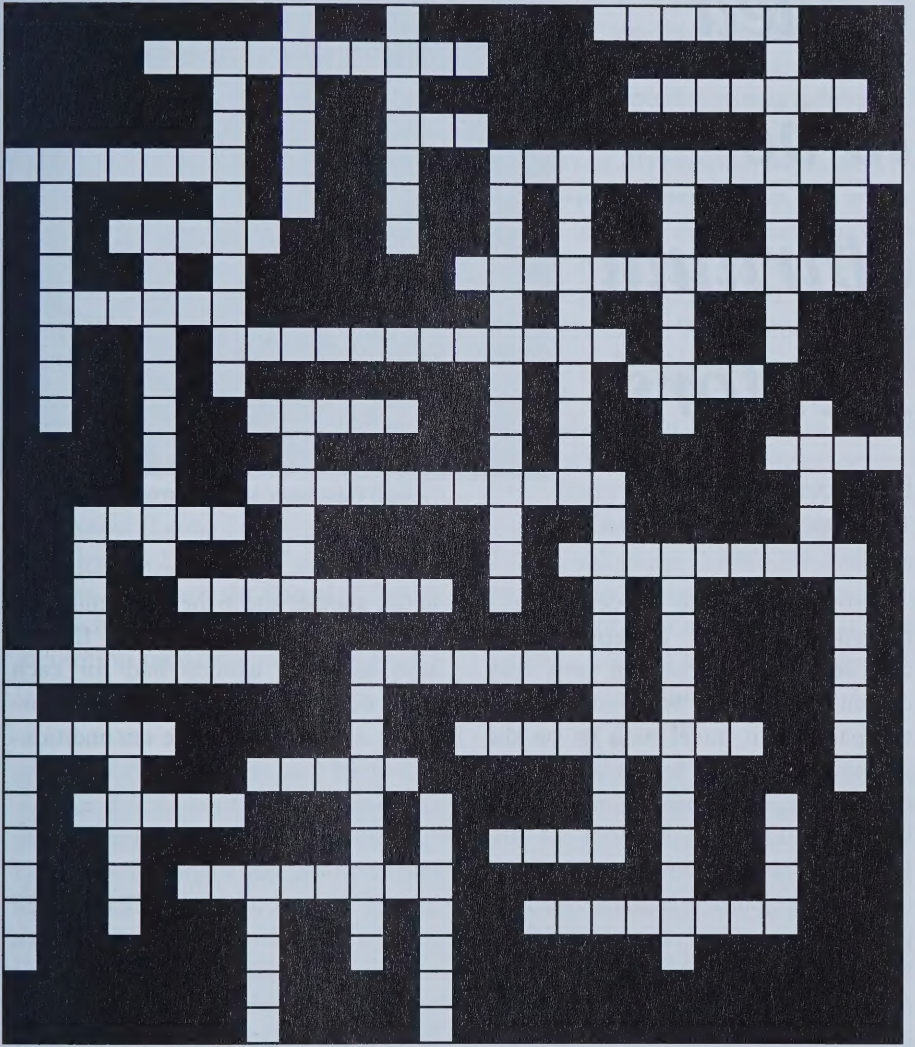
5-letter words
BIBLE
JESUS
PEACE
ANGEL
TRUTH
EARTH
BLOOD
FLESH
BREAD

6-letter words
EXODUS
PSALMS
CHRIST
HEAVEN
SUNDAY

7-letter words
APOSTLE
GENESIS
SABBATH
ETERNAL
KINGDOM

8-letter words
HALLOWED
CREATION
COVENANT
PASSOVER
PROPHECY
RELIGION
ORDAINED

9-letter words
TESTAMENT
CRUCIFIED
OFFERINGS
DISCIPLES



10-letter words
WORSHIPING
SCRIPTURES
REPENTANCE
REVELATION
SANCTIFIED

11-letter words
SPIRITUALLY
FORGIVENESS

12-letter words
RESURRECTION
CHRISTIANITY
CONGREGATION
COMMANDMENTS

13-letter word
RIGHTEOUSNESS

Called to be Spiritual Mentors

Jean Davidson and Roberta Clare

by Roberta Clare,
The Elders' Institute, St. Andrew's Hall

How are we to discern God's presence when by all appearances God seems to be absent or very, very distant? Where do we find spiritual companions to travel with us on the journey of faith? The Book of Ruth tells a story about tenacity, determination, endurance, and most of all, human loyalty and commitment. Ruth and Naomi journey together through great sorrow and physical hardship to find new depths of faith and meaning.

Naomi wins the love and dedication of her daughter-in-law, but surprisingly it is Ruth, the younger woman, who teaches Naomi that God has not deserted them—not in their grief, poverty, or overwhelming fear for the future. God was present in their loyalty to one another and in their determination to create a new life together. If such love as these women had for each other could run so deep, imagine how much more profound the unconditional love of God is—a love that promises never to let us go.

Ruth and Naomi shared a relationship in which they supported each other as they learned to discern God in their journey to a new life. In the Christian tradition, we call this *mentoring*. It is an ancient practice that can be traced back to the desert dwellers in the early first century. Mentoring is recorded as a practice among the Church Fathers in the documents of the early Christian church. It is discussed at length in the writings of the medieval mystics. A notable example is St. Teresa of Avila's mentorship of John of the Cross, the founder of the Carmelite Order.

Although the practice of mentoring spans centuries, very little has been written about it until quite recently. One US study reported that concern about the high drop-out rate of new teachers led to the creation of a mentoring program. The result? Twenty-four of 25 new teachers who were mentored remained in the profession after four years. Eighty-five percent of experienced teachers reported "substantial change" in their teaching as a direct outcome of their mentoring relationship with teachers new to the profession. (Leona English, "Mentoring in Religious Education," p. 23)

The WMS and the Synod of British Columbia are in agreement—that mentoring programs could help revitalize the church. They have provided substantial grants to The Elders' Institute at St. Andrew's Hall to develop two new on-line courses to train Presbyterian lay leaders—men and women—to mentor young adults and youth across Canada.

We can all remember someone who took a special interest in us, lent an ear, helped us make new contacts, gave us good "hands-off" advice that was uncritical, non-judgmental, supportive, and affirming. With some training, could you be a mentor to someone in return?

If you would like to learn to be a spiritual mentor on-line, please contact The Elders' Institute at St. Andrew's Hall to obtain an application form. Phone toll free: 1-866-794-8888 or email info@eldersinstitute.com. For more information, please visit The Elders' Institute web site at www.eldersinstitute.com.

The Wisdom of the Elders and the Energy of Youth: A Course in Spiritual Mentoring
Course dates: October 17–November 25, 2005
Cost: $100 per person

Participants who successfully complete the course will be eligible to apply for the second course, which will bring ruling elders and lay leaders together with youth and young adults from across the country on-line.

What I First Received, I Pass Onto You: Spiritual Mentoring On-line
Course dates: January 16–February 24, 2006
Cost: $100 per person

CONGREGATION PLEDGE OF NONVIOLENCE

Making peace must start within ourselves, in our families, and in our congregation. Each of us, members of ______________________________, commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people.

Respect Self and Others

To respect myself, to affirm others, and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks, and self-destructive behaviour.

Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

Listen Carefully

To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me,and to consider others' feelings and needs rather than insist on having my own way.

Forgive

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things with respect and care.

Recreate Nonviolently

To promote athletic and recreational activities that encourage co-operation, and to avoid social activities that make violence look exciting, funny, or acceptable.

Act Courageously

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at work, in the congregation, or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

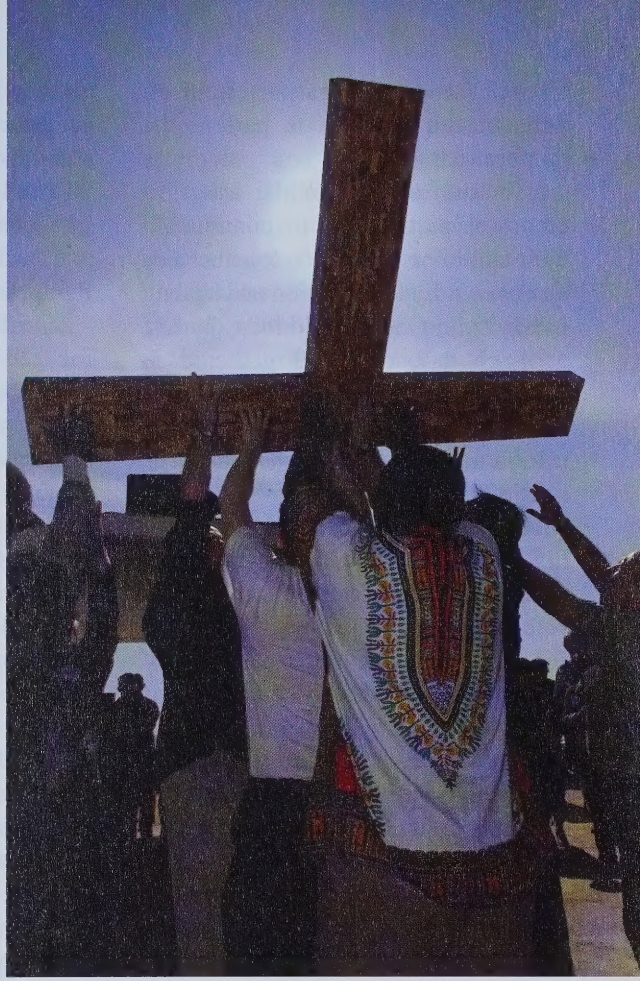
"Eliminating violence, one congregation at a time, starting with our own."

Institute for Peace and Justice
4144 Lindell Blvd. #408, St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: (314) 533-4445 — Web site: www.ipj-ppj.org

2001-2010 DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE

Conference on World Mission and Evangelism

Athens, Greece, May 9-16, 2005



The Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) held in Athens, Greece from May 9–16, 2005 was the 13th in a series of missionary conferences that began with the World Missionary Congress held in Edinburgh in 1910. The theme chosen for the conference was: "Come, Holy Spirit, heal and reconcile! Called in Christ to be healing and reconciling communities." This year's conference was unique in that this was the first time that the CWME was held in a primarily Orthodox country. It was also unique because of the full participation of delegates from Roman Catholic, Evangelical, and Pentecostal churches that do not belong to the World Council of Churches (WCC). In recent years, members of these churches had participated in the CWME as observers.

Of the 500 official participants in the conference, the first 400 were appointed according to a formula whereby 50 per cent were appointed from names submitted by WCC member churches, 25 per cent from names submitted by affiliated bodies of the CWME, and 25 per cent from the Roman Catholic Church, Pentecostal, and Evangelical churches and mission bodies. Approximately 100 participants were appointed for their expertise in some area of mission to serve as consultants or advisors for the conference. In all, more than 300 Christian churches and organizations from all parts of the world took part in the conference.

The aim of the CWME was: "To empower participants to continue in their call to be in mission together and work towards reconciliation and healing in Christ, in God's world today."

Each day, delegates gathered in groups of ten from different traditions and areas of the world for Bible Study using a meditative technique, known as Lectio Divina. This was followed by a worship service for the whole community. On the first day, this began on the beach and featured the arrival of a large wooden cross donated by Christians in Palestine and made from pieces of olive trees uprooted for the building of the wall separating Israel and Palestine. The worship each day used a different liturgy based on the different traditions present—Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Pentecostal.

The daily plenary sessions highlighted the theme of the conference. The opening plenary on Tuesday, May 10 began with words of welcome by CWME moderator Ruth Bottoms of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. This was followed by a welcome address on behalf of the Church of Greece by His Beatitude Christodoulos, Archbishop of Athens and all Greece. Sam Kobia, general secretary of the WCC, introduced the overall conference purpose and program, which was followed by his opening address. Presentations were then made on pneumatology and mission from a mainline Protestant perspective by Kirsteen Kim, a lecturer at the University of Birmingham in the UK, and from a Pentecostal perspective by Wonsuk Ma, a Pentecostal missionary and theologian who serves in the Philippines.

On Thursday, May 12, the plenary focused on the theme, *Decade to Overcome Violence*, with the sub-theme of "Mission and Violence." It began with a liturgical procession of symbols of violence by youth delegates from the different regions of the world, followed by an audio-visual exploration of the theme, and some personal testimonies bearing witness to the sometimes ambivalent relationship between mission and violence. A round table discussion featuring Fernando Enns, a Mennonite from Germany, Tinyiko Maluleke, a Presbyterian from South Africa, and Viola Raheb from Palestine responded to these testimonies from their own experiences in relation to the theme. The plenary did not attempt to provide answers to the questions raised. Instead, it ended with the concluding prayer for the session, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

The plenary on Friday, May 13 dealt with the topic of "Healing." Two panel presentations were made. The first panel involved Ruben Parades from the Centro Evangelico De Missiologia Andino Amazonica, Bernard Ugeux, a Roman Catholic anthropologist and theologian from France, and Erika Schuchardt, a German parliamentarian and counsellor, who spoke on the need and desire for healing in post-modern contexts. The second panel reflected on the challenges posed to the contemporary practice and understanding of mission by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

On Saturday, May 14 the morning plenary focused on the theme of "Reconciliation." Lunga ka Siboto, an Anglican Bishop, spoke about his experiences as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine and Israel, and Iosua Pepino, a fisherman and pastor from Kiribati, highlighted the devastating effect that the rise in sea levels —caused by global warming—is having on islands in the Pacific Ocean. This was followed by a theological address on the potential significance of reconciliation as a new paradigm for mission by Robert Schreiter, a Roman Catholic priest from Chicago.

Each afternoon, delegates had the option to choose from a wide variety of special interest groups on many topics, called synaxeis, a Greek word that refers to a gathering of people. There was time each afternoon to attend two synaxeis. After supper, the Home Groups met once again to give people an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the experiences of the day.

On the last day of the conference, Sunday, May 15, delegates attended the church of their choice in Athens and had lunch with the congregations. There was time for a couple hours of sightseeing in central Athens in the afternoon, and then in the evening everyone gathered at the foot of the path leading to the Areopagus, and proceeded to the rocky hill where the apostle Paul had preached his famous sermon to the Athenian philosophers. A very beautiful and emotional service was held during which Sam Kobia preached the closing message.

For me, the CWME was a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with a great number of fellow Christians from many different traditions and from every corner of the globe. Particularly in the home groups, the wide variety of perspectives made for some very stimulating and informative discussions. The CWME also provided me with an excellent opportunity to meet many of my mission executive counterparts in other denominations whom I had not known before, except as perhaps an e-mail correspondent, and also to meet with several representatives of partner churches whom I had already come to know in a formal context, but now had the opportunity to get to know in an informal context. This was all in addition to the opportunity to spend an entire week thinking about, discussing, and being challenged by issues on the cutting edge of world mission.

Ron Wallace
Associate Secretary,
International Ministries

A Mission Team to Toronto!

by Marjorie Ross

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada are part of a group of North American and Caribbean churches called the Caribbean and North American Council on Mission (CANACOM). Every few years, CANACOM sends a mission team, drawn from its members, to work in support of a local mission project. The first such team, called a Joint Mission Action Team (JOMAT), went to South Carolina, and the second to Jamaica. In 2003, CANACOM urged Canadian churches to host a JOMAT.

But did we have a worthwhile ecumenical mission program that could host a JOMAT? Our first choice was our outreach community work relating to the Caribbean -Canadian population in the Jane and Finch and Malvern neighbourhoods of Toronto. As a post-retirement project, I set out to discover whether these areas would benefit from a JOMAT.

"Jane and Finch" (an intersection in northwest Toronto) is the name of a neighbourhood which a few years ago had a bad reputation for lawlessness and gang violence. Until very recently, it was woefully short of community services and had one of Toronto's highest concentrations of "youth at risk." The formerly quiet neighbourhood of Malvern, in northeast Toronto, was rocked recently by a gang war that left a number of people dead, including some innocent bystanders. Malvern is also poorly served by social agencies.

photo: Jim Hodgson

Left to right: Dwight McFarlane, Chelsea Masterman, Latoya Bonner, Jenifa Sinanan

The vast majority of people in these neighbourhoods are decent, law-abiding citizens who are concerned about their kids—especially their teenagers. They want community services at least on a par with those in other parts of the city. Most importantly, the churches are at work in both Jane and Finch and Malvern to address the challenges faced by youth. This was definitely a place for a JOMAT!

continued on page 34

Working With Women in Sudan

by Laura Smith

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, recently visited refugee camps in Sudan, where Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) supports work through Action by Churches Together (ACT). Informed of the difficult conditions within the camps and the daily human rights violations occurring outside the camp boundaries, Annan described the situation as “heart-wrenching.”

Many of the heart-wrenching stories coming out of Sudan are from women, as they face threats of harassment and rape if they leave the camp boundaries. Things as simple as carrying out daily chores can lead to physically and emotionally traumatizing experiences. For example, many women depend on finding firewood and water outside of the camps, and reports of harassment, beatings, and rape are common.

Through ACT, PWS&D is helping to deal with this issue through practical means. Nutrition centres serve thousands of children under five, and medical clinics provide basic health services for displaced people. In order to make safe water more accessible for thousands of people living in the refugee camps, ACT is drilling boreholes and installing bladders with taps attached, allowing several people to access water at the same time.

With ACT's support, women in Darfur refugee camps are also learning how to make and use fuel-efficient wood stoves that reduce the time spent cooking and collecting firewood. "Before I had the improved stove, I went daily for six hours to collect firewood outside of the camp. Now I only go for one hour and I will have enough wood for two weeks," says a woman from Hassa Hissa Camp. She tells of how she was beaten and raped a few months ago, and how she will only collect wood now if she is with a large group.

PWS&D is also continuing to work in Darfur through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). CFGB is working hard to stabilize food supply, improve nutritional health, and ensure reliable supplies of clean water.

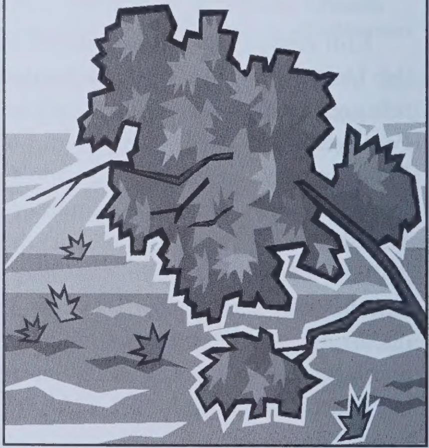
Please continue to keep the people of Sudan in your prayers. You can also support them by making a donation to PWS&D. Donate through your congregation or send a donation directly to PWS&D. Gifts by credit card can be made by calling PWS&D at (416) 441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301.

A SMALL STATEMENT

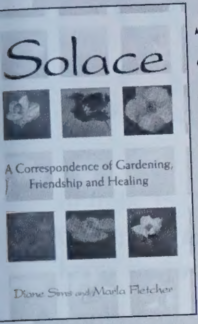
Outside on my deck, a gust of wind
shakes the Silver Maple,
sets in motion
a dance of whirling papery butterflies
They fall on every side, twirling
faster than a skater in her final spin

Mesmerizing with their perfectly
balanced
flight
Landing,
stately and upright
in my lawn,
making a statement about purpose,
design,
small things, and
blooming where you're planted

Judith Frost



Reviews


Solace
A Correspondence of Gardening, Friendship and Healing
Diane Sims and Marla Fletcher

***Solace, A Correspondence of Gardening, Friendship and Healing* by Diane Sims and Marla Flecher, Novalis Publishing, $23.25**

Solace is based on the letters of two women, one a freelance writer and editor who lives in Ottawa, and the other a published author who is battling ovarian cancer and multiple sclerosis in Stratford, Ontario. Each correspondence is sent with a clipping, petal, seed, or picture of an everyday plant that reflects strength, a healing word, or a memory that is the theme of the letter. They explain their botanical choices with all the relevant meanings and references they can find—from the historical origins and uses to modern day applications as well as references from literature, poetry, and the scriptures. As these two friends share their trials and successes in the garden, they also reveal their trials and successes in other aspects of their personal lives.

This book is well-titled, as it contains many of the ingredients of comfort, the spirituality of the garden, the support and strength of friendship, and the earthy and contemplative quotes from literature and the scriptures. The only thing missing is chocolate.

I love the fact that this is a Canadian book that features my garden zone because there is a wheelbarrow full of practical gardening information and ideas. I also love that a portion of the royalties will be donated to the Stratford MS Chapter.

Susan Clarke

WMS President's Fall Itinerary 2005
Margaret McGillivray

September 17: Bridging Generation Gaps, Crieff Hills, Ontario

September 23–25: Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Mission Society, New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. I will do a presentation on my trips to China and Japan.

Booked for several WMS speaking engagements re: China and Japan, and one at a Men's Breakfast.

November: Life and Mission Agency meetings at Crieff, WMS Council in Toronto, and Assembly Council at Crieff.

Thanksgiving

by Jane Swatridge

Theme: The greatest expression of thanks, honour, and praise to God is to share in friendship every undeserved blessing we've received; for to whom much is given, much is expected.

Call to Worship

From Psalm 145 (NIV):
Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation will commend your works to another. They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

Welcoming Praise #769: "Lord of light, whose name and splendour"

Responsive Litany of Approach

One: For God's love, gentle as rain, splashing away tears, refreshing the soul;
All: We gather in thanks.
One: For God's love, soft as light, ending the darkness, leading to truth;
All: We gather in peace.
One: For God's love, open to question, greater than doubt, freeing us to wonder;
All: We gather in awe.
Unison: By the power of your Spirit encourage us, Christ, in grateful living, seeking wholeness by serving your will in service to others in your name.

Prayers of Adoration and Invocation

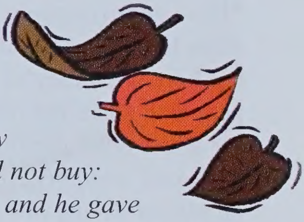
Breath of God, permeating the heart of creation, lift our eyes to your glory all around us. Wind of God, animating every movement, open our minds to the reality of your presence. Spirit of God, Source of Transformation and Life, propel us to be your people

of light, to live as people saved by grace. At this simple, sacred season, when every tree, field, and bird in the sky reveals your glory, help us to be still and to know that your love enfolds us all.

Lord of the morning, we awake to this new day with all of its possibilities, its uncertainties, its many faces, and its underlying hopes. By your strength and wisdom, enable us to move through this day free of anger or bitterness, impatience, or self-importance, so that we may recognize the face of Christ in both the generosity and the needs of neighbours and strangers, and respond with grace. We pray all things in Jesus' name, Amen.

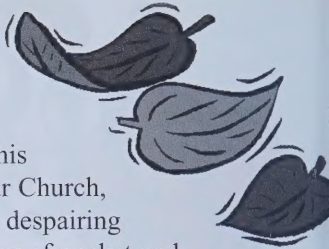
Praise #762: "When the poor ones"

Gospel Reading: Luke 19: 1–9
Comment: Zacchaeus was certainly not poor in any earthly sense; he lacked for nothing except for that which he could not buy: Salvation. Personal contact with Jesus transformed his life and he gave thanks by his overwhelming *generosity to others. How do we live our gratitude to God?*



Invitation to an Agape Fellowship Meal
[This is an ancient tradition in the Christian Church. As the Greek word "agape" means love, this meal is a lay celebration of our many ministries that are borne of love and fostered in the community of faith, where our individual gifts serve a collective mission.]

One: We are a people saved;
All: And so we gather in thankfulness to celebrate our Saviour.
One: We are a people loved;
All: And so we look to each face to recognize our Saviour.
One: We are a people blessed;
All: And so we share our blessings to follow our Saviour.



Scripture: Matthew 25: 31–40

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Jesus, our Saviour, Brother and Friend, thank you for this time in community to celebrate the body of Christ, your Church, called to befriend alike the outcast and the popular, the despairing and the contented, the lost and the impassioned, the poor of pocket and the rich in spirit.

We thank you for the wondrous gift of friendship, for the people who accept us as we are and bear witness to our potential. Thank you for those in whose love we are secure, whether at our best or our very worst and who help us to navigate this life with their constancy, comfort, affirmation, and faith.

Loving God, you have promised that your kingdom is among us. Open our eyes to see it, our hands to serve it, and our hearts to receive it in humble gratitude. These are our prayers in Jesus' name, Amen.

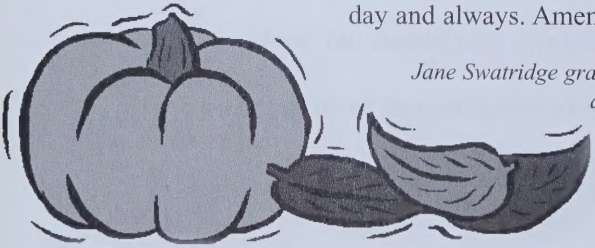
Celebration of the Agape Meal with Bread and Grapes*

*Have approximately half of those present take pieces of the bread and have the other half take several grapes. Then ask each person to find someone who does not have what they've been given, that all will be fed in the act of sharing. Ask people to share not only the food, but *affirmations*—what gifts are you thankful for in the other person who contributes to Christ's mission?
[It would certainly contribute towards a relaxed atmosphere if quiet music could be played during this time of sharing.]

Closing Hymn #740: "Make me a channel of your peace."

Charge and Blessing

As we have been fed at this gathering, let us go to feed the hungry.
As we have been freed by God's grace, let us go to free the imprisoned.
As we have been blessed, let us give. As we have heard, let us share the story.
And may the grace of God, the redeeming mercy of Jesus Christ, and the sustaining fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of us, this day and always. Amen.



Jane Swatridge graduated from Knox College in 1999, and served at Toronto's Fallingbrook Presbyterian Church until 2003. She now ministers in a creative urban ministry in downtown Toronto called fyi-for your inspiration.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TIME FOR JUSTICE!

A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH?

The Bible speaks of a New Heaven and a New Earth. It may be easy to believe in a New Heaven but we may sometimes entertain doubts about the possibility of a New Earth. For it seems we "continue to live in a world of conflict and war, of growing militarization, of hunger and poverty," as the report of the International Affairs Committee states.

Yet, we know that "in God's gracious economy, there is enough for all to enjoy abundant life if we but share. In organizing the global economy, God has entrusted us with a vocation as stewards of the common good, serving our neighbours and caring for the earth."

As people of faith, we confess our shortcomings in executing our vocation. In the words of the report we humbly pray:

> May we learn to reside together as members of the household of God, justly sharing the bounty of creation, and living with one another in harmony and mutual respect. May God's Spirit guide us into right relations between people and the earth, between one community and another.

As people of faith, let us work toward the realization of the biblical vision of a New Earth. Be active in establishing justice and peace. Proclaim this vision to our leaders so that they may be inspired to "find the true paths on which we can move together to a more generous, sustainable, and neighbourly today and tomorrow."

Time for Justice! is based on the report of the International Affairs Committee to the 130th General Assembly, June 2004. The full report is found in Acts & Proceedings 2004.

Text: Dineke Kraay

Editing & Design: Gail Turner

Sonya Henderson
Ukraine
March 28, 2005

The severe winter weather has affected my life in a way I never would have considered *I have been without an indoor toilet!* The workers didn't dig deep enough when the septic tank for my house was installed; therefore, as the ground froze so did my septic tank. Thankfully, there is a little outhouse attached to my garage. It is truly amazing at the odd things one can be thankful for! I have used the outhouse all winter and it has been an eye-opening and sometimes jarring experience at how accustomed I have become to "normal" facilities—and a lesson on how I take them for granted.

The large amount of snow that we received—especially the snow on the mountain tops that cuts us off geographically from the rest of Ukraine—is of concern. People are watching the rivers and lakes carefully as there was a horrific flood three years ago in which a few of the lower-lying villages were completely devastated. In a place where people have so little and the government infrastructure is so weak, this devastation runs deep.

A sure sign of spring's arrival in Eastern Europe comes not only with the sprouting of snowdrops and the constant happy chatter of returning birds, but also the appearance of new vegetables in the market! During the winter, it becomes difficult—if not impossible—to find fresh produce. The typical winter stock of available vegetables consists of onions, potatoes, and cabbage. The quality and size of these vegetables diminishes as the winter months progress. As for fruit, bananas and oranges can usually be found. It is a rare, exciting—if not expensive—find to locate a fresh tomato, pepper, or even a healthy-looking apple! People here are accustomed to this winter shortage and take advantage of the abundance of summer fruits and vegetables by pickling and conserving them during the summer months.

The market in my town is a large and busy one. Its outdoor alleys and adjacent buildings sprawl across a vast area in the town centre. It is the hub of social and economic activity in the town. Anything can be bought in the market—car parts, chocolate, clothing, bread, etc. A separate fruit and vegetable market is housed in a long, tall, and dark building. One entire wall of the building is made up of windows but natural light is rarely let in as merchants outside set up their stalls against the wall and render the windows useless. The lack of light is accentuated by the constant haze of cigarette smoke that permeates the building. Upon entering, there is a row of gambling machines that make loud dinging and musical noises, when coins are inserted and the game is played. These machines are in constant use. The building is inhabited by merchants, people at the gambling machines, groups of men dressed in black smoking furiously, drinking coffee or beer at the indoor *café*, and street children who come in to beg from shoppers. Stepping into the building on a sunny day is a shock because of the dark, smoky atmosphere, the constant clamour of the gambling machines, the hum of conversation, and the mass of moving people. The building itself is set up with four long rows of tables upon which the merchants set their wares. They display their goods in an attractive way. After a produce is selected it is carefully weighed on the merchant's scale, money and produce then exchange hands, and you are on your way. In the winter months, the building is full of at least 100 merchants selling exactly the same thing and for exactly the same price. They carry the same three items: potatoes, onions, and cabbage. I try my best to buy from a different person each time I'm there.

In political news, I am pleased to report that things in Ukraine have calmed down. The new president and prime minister have settled into government. People seem content with the final decision of the second round of voting that took place in December. Everyone is pleased that a peaceful outcome could come from the election and there is hope that the democratic tradition will strengthen with time.

My work continues to be a source of great enjoyment. I love teaching English and my students make my task enjoyable. In the winter/spring term, I taught mainly at two Hungarian Reformed High Schools. The schools are in villages about 40 kilometres apart, so this requires quite a bit of driving. The roads are horrific with potholes and it takes almost an hour to drive the 40 kilometres. But the students make the drive worthwhile. My van is big and strong, although I've just replaced the shocks on it for the second time in six months!

I spend most of my time at the Nagybereg Reformed High School. I have 100 students and it was a real challenge for me to learn all of their names!

Students from Nagybereg Reformed High School

Overseas Staff Birthdays

October

2 - Sonya Henderson, Ukraine
5 - Kennis Kim, Guatemala
8 - Jillian Fraser, Bahamas
20 - Lezlie Cowley Allison, Cameroon
25 - Steven Ross, Ukraine

November

2 - Fernando Cascante, Costa Rica/USA
7 - Joe Reed, Central America/Canada
12 - Rosalie Howard, India
16 - Richard Schwarz, Nepal

December

15 - Rick Allen, Kenya
27 - Mary Gorombey, Romania
31 - Sheila McKelvie, Pakistan

In September, the students in the first class were complete beginners in English. It's so exciting for me to see the progress that they have made in the few short months we have been working together. The upper two classes are also making great progress. They enjoy learning songs in English and playing conversation games. It does my teacher-heart proud when I hear a student speaking English to another student (when it would be so much easier and convenient for them to speak in Hungarian), or when I hear a student correct another student on their pronunciation or grammar.

The second high school is in the village of Peterfalva. I see the students there less often than the ones in Nagybereg. This high school is also a trade school, so along with their regular studies the students learn trades. The girls focus mainly on tailoring and sewing while the boys learn bike repair and small engine mechanics. As we have fewer classes together and they are so busy with learning their trade, their English abilities are slightly lower than their counterparts in Nagybereg, but they are still eager to learn English and are making good progress.

The students in Peterfalva now have an added advantage in learning English as two young volunteers are helping teach English at the school. Amanda Henderson (no relation, just a very excellent last name!) is from St. David's Presbyterian Church in Nova Scotia. She arrived in February and will stay through to the end of the school term. She has been an excellent addition to the teaching staff. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious. The second volunteer is Eric Hoeksma who has come from Michigan to volunteer on a local farm; he is also helping to teach English at the school.

With Eric and Amanda's help, the students' English has greatly improved. Their ministry of presence amongst the students and staff of the school is wonderful to witness.

Another aspect of my job is the summer Youth in Mission (YIM) trip. In July, five youth from around Canada will come to Eastern Europe to experience and participate in the life and work of the Hungarian Reformed Church. As coming to Eastern Europe with YIM was my first experience with a mission trip, which eventually led to my working here, this part of my job has a special place in my heart. The five Canadian youth will participate in two physical work camps—one in Romania to help build an alcoholic mission home and conference centre, and the other in Ukraine in the village of Peterfalva where they will help build an addition to the high school. The youth will also help in running a one-week children's camp for gypsies here in Ukraine. Although the camp is fun, the work is exhausting but it will give the Canadian youth a first-hand look and eye-opening experience at the vast differences between needy children in Ukraine and Canadian children.

This past year has certainly been one of change and growth for me. It is also one that is tinged with bitter-sweetness as it is my last year working overseas for The Presbyterian Church in Canada. I am looking forward to returning "home" to Canada and re-establishing relationships and my life there. I am nervous, however, of leaving my "home" here in Eastern Europe—a place in which, although I am still considered a foreigner, I have been accepted with open arms. I have become quite accustomed to the "strange" ways and have just as many friends here as I do in Canada.

I will return to Canada in the fall and will spend time travelling around to talk about my life, work, and experiences in Eastern Europe and with our partner Hungarian Reformed Church. If you are interested in having me come to your group or congregation, you can contact Barbara Nawratil [bnawratil@presbyterian.ca] at the Church Offices at 1-800-619-7301.

I thank you for your interest in my work here in Trans-Carpathian Ukraine. Your prayers and support mean a lot to me.

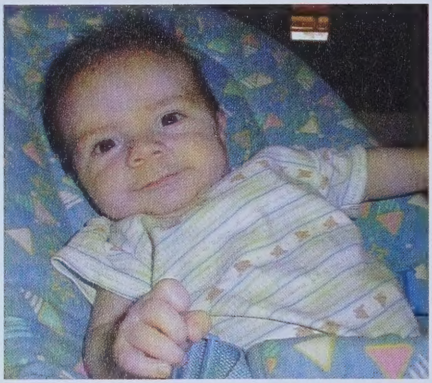
Allison Family
Cameroon, Africa
Wycliffe Bible Translators

Baby on Board

In November, Josiah, Nate, and I travelled from Cameroon to Paris, Texas. Being 32 weeks pregnant, the 30-hour journey to my mom's house had never been so uncomfortable, but my young travelling companions were helpful and encouraging all along the way. The day after our arrival, I went for my first prenatal checkup and found out that Joe and Nate would be getting a baby brother.

Five weeks later, Sean arrived from Chad, West Africa, where he had been attending a linguistic workshop. Two days after his arrival (and a couple of weeks earlier than expected), I went into labour. We thank the Lord that Sean made it to Texas in time!

Andrew "Drew" Paul was born on December 18 at 3:08 a.m. He weighed seven pounds four ounces and surprised



us with a head full of straight, black hair. What a joy it has been to welcome this little guy into our family. His big brothers, now seven and nine, are quite enthralled with Drew and are a great help already.

Our time in Texas was full. There was much to be done as we prepared to return overseas with a new baby. I stayed busy gathering what we would need including an assortment of disposable diapers to help make our nights and travel days easier in Cameroon. I tucked diapers into every spare nook and cranny I could find in our suitcases. At only ten days old, we took Drew to have his passport photo taken. It was a challenge just getting a picture with his eyes open!

On February 8, loaded down with eight large, heavy suitcases and ten carry-on items, we returned to Cameroon via Chad. The international airport in Chad is only a few hours from our home in Makary. We encountered several obstacles upon our return to Africa, the first being the heat. Coming directly from a cool Texas February, the blast of heat that hit us as we got off the plane seemed hotter than ever. Drew is the only one who appeared unbothered by it.

The day after we landed, Sean went downtown to Chad's capital city of N'Djamena to get a visa for Drew. In broad daylight, someone broke into the back of our locked truck and stole a suitcase. When Sean got out of the cab to check on it, someone else stole his wallet out of the front seat! A few hours later his wallet was returned to him for a small fee. All of the money had been removed, but our identity papers and other important documents were thankfully still there. Unfortunately, our suitcase was not returned. When we got back to Makary the next day, we discovered that in our absence, unwelcome rodents had taken up residence in our home. They rudely left lots of evidence of their stay in closets, cupboards, and curtains.

We are feeling settled once again. The house is relatively clean and organized, the mice are dead (I hope), and Drew has figured out when night is supposed to be in this country and is sleeping well. The boys and I have resumed home school even without the schoolbooks I'd packed in the suitcase that was stolen. That was one loss out of the luggage that the boys didn't cry over! Sean is settling into language work after taking care of the many house repairs that needed to be done since we were away. We are greatly encouraged by your prayers.

Lezlie, Sean, Josiah, Nate, and Drew

Announcements

CGIT's 90th Birthday

Ottawa CGIT Committee is celebrating CGIT's 90th Birthday by having a weekend at Camp Kalalla. Reserve Friday, September 16–Sunday, September 18 for this event. Theme: "Roots and Shoots." For further information, check their web site at www.campkalalla.com

Westminster's CGIT group and the Alumnae are celebrating CGIT's 90th Birthday with an Afternoon Tea on Saturday, October 15, 2005 from 2:00–4:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave., Ottawa. Free will offering. Come celebrate with us!

Eleanor Knott Crabtree, D.D.

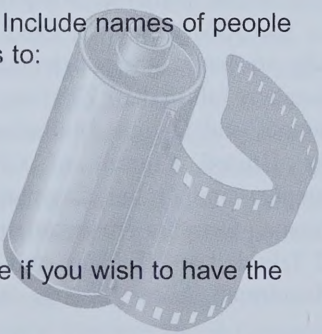
A service celebrating the 40th Anniversary (October 1, 1965) of Eleanor Knott's arrival in India will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Owen Sound. Dr. Kevin Livingston, Knox Toronto, WMS members, retired missionaries, and friends will commemorate the Great Commission. For more information, telephone (519) 376-7886.

Ida White is Honoured on Her 90th Birthday

To honour Ida White, the Afternoon WMS and the Arthur Circle group at Knox Church in Goderich, Ontario made a "Gift of Hope" donation through PWS&D to the village health workers project in India. The matching grants from the Canadian International Development Agency help make the donations to this project go a long way. For 27 years, Ida worked as a registered nurse in this area of India. Congratulations Ida!

Glad Tidings Needs Your Photos!

Send in good, clear photos of action shots. Include names of people and/or group, and any other relevant details to:



Glad Tidings
Women's Missionary Society
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you wish to have the photos returned to you.

You may also e-mail your photos to hwilson@presbyterian.ca

A Mission Team to Toronto
continued from page 20

An ecumenical committee raised funds to employ a talented young Ghanaian named Ben Osei to work with kids at risk in Jane and Finch. However, Ben was a refugee claimant, and his claim was denied. The committee went to the media pointing out that Ben was doing exactly the kind of work the community needed. Although he was deported to Ghana, he was allowed to return as an immigrant. His program has expanded and the ecumenical committee now includes representatives of the community's Presbyterian and United churches.

In Malvern, the Presbyterian minister the Rev. Wayne Kleinstruber, members of his congregation, and young people from the local Anglican church (both congregations are largely Caribbean) reached out to the local Muslim community association. Together, they held a series of events to protest local violence. In August 2004, they held a day-long event in a local park, called "Celebrate Us." The local police said it was the most positive community event in the history of Malvern.

The JOMAT team arrived in early July to begin their orientation. Its members (all in their 20's) are: Latoya Bonner and Dwight McFarlane from the United Church of Christ in Jamaica and Grand Cayman; Jenifa Sinanan from the Presbyterian Church of Trinidad and Tobago; and Chelsea Masterman from Alberta. Although they will be based in Jane and Finch, they will visit Malvern regularly, and work in Ben Osei's children's programs and in youth groups of local churches. They will be in Canada for six months, until mid-December.

Members of the JOMAT team are available as speakers through the fall, or to attend Presbyterial meetings and share their experiences. They can be reached through International Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada at (416) 441-1111.

God's Promise

Where are you God? the human being cried
I thought you were here, right by my side.
I'm in great despair; nothing seems right.
The world's gone mad; mortals want only to fight.
Jesus taught us to love and to share,
But, greed has a hold, and so much is unfair.

Look around you my child, the Creator replied.
I'm in all that lives, and with those who've died.
There's nothing on earth or in heaven above
That separates you from my infinite love.
So despair no more; don't fret, cry, or fear.
Believe only in me, for I am right here.

Victoria Stirling

Readers Write

Dear Editor:

Thank you for attending our Synodical annual meeting on April 20. We appreciated your information about changes in *Glad Tidings*. It is always refreshing to read articles written from a new perspective or in a different format. We thank you for your talk and editorials in and about the WMS magazine.

I spoke to you at the meeting about an idea I have had for some time regarding "pen pals" or "e-mail pals" with connections through *Glad Tidings*. Many of our members cannot attend meetings, Synodicals, or even Presbyterials but might like to write to other WMS members. I would find it interesting to correspond with others from other areas across the country.

I have just started the job of corresponding secretary which means I could respond to only a couple letters but I would hope that others would take up the challenge of getting to know other WMS members across the country. Thank you for listening and God bless you in your new position.

Sincerely, Mary Lou McKay
785 North Mile Rd.
London, Ontario N6H 2X9
mlmckay@rogers.com

Editor's Note

I like Mary Lou's idea of WMS members corresponding with members in other provinces to exchange ideas and encourage one another in mission work. If anyone is interested in becoming a pen pal or e-mail pal, they may write to Mary Lou as indicated. If there is a lot of interest, perhaps members could submit their names and addresses for publication in Glad Tidings *so that readers may know who is interested and write accordingly.*

Holly Wilson

Dear Editor:

We are quick to criticize folks when we don't agree with something they do so I thought it might be nice to hear something positive for a change.

I recently attended a wonderful 20th Anniversary party for one of our past Synodical Presidents, the Rev. Betty McLagan. Her daughter Linda, who lives in Alberta, arranged this celebration for Betty's 20th year of ordination. The party was a complete surprise to Betty right up until the last day when her son suddenly turned up out of the blue.

I also thought you might be interested to hear that Betty was nominated as Woman of the Year by the township of Langley, British Columbia. In April 2005, she was awarded a certificate from her MP Mark Warawa in honour of her outstanding commitment for excellence in her community. The certificate reads: "This award is presented in recognition of your support, guidance, and contribution towards enriching the lives of others within your community."

Both of these stories speak volumes to me.

Blessings, Barb Marshall
Synodical President, British Columbia

Synodical

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review, Friday, April 22, 2005—It was a meeting of the missionary-minded earlier this week at Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock.

More than 200 women from across southwestern Ontario gathered for the two-day Women's Missionary Society Synodical annual meeting held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

"We finance missions throughout The Presbyterian Church in Canada," Embro resident Susie Strickler said.

Guest speaker Marjorie Ross, a former International Ministries convener, informed those attending the meeting about what was happening in Presbyterian missions throughout the world.

The women help sponsor missions in China, Central Africa, Ukraine, Nigeria, Bahamas, Japan, and Taiwan, just to name a few.

Missionaries from The Presbyterian Church dedicate themselves to education and health-care projects, such as nutrition enhancement, and tuberculosis and AIDS prevention.

"Missionaries are only accepted if they win the hearts of those they are working for," said Ross, referring to the often fragile relationships that missionaries develop with local people and their governments.

Their relationship with the Chinese government is only beginning to recover, after Christian Chinese students studying in Toronto were allowed to take refuge in Canada following the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

"This event damaged relations," Ross said.

A Canadian church delegation that just returned from China symbolizes that "Canada and China are entering a new phase," she said.

Ross underlined the fact that life as a missionary can often be lonely and challenging, and asked the assembled women to remember those abroad in their prayers.

"Prayers provide strength and answers to those missionaries who are alone," she said.

Ross also encouraged letter writing and sending of cards to missionaries.

"Over and over again, I hear how touched missionaries are to receive a warm expression of wishes from people they don't know," she said.

Visits by youth to mission countries are also encouraged.

"Clearly, it is a way for young people to be turned on (to mission work)," Ross said. "Please try to make it possible."

Heather Rivers-Harron, reporter

The **Southwestern Ontario** Synodical meeting took place at Knox Church in Woodstock on April 19–20. The two days were filled with praise, fellowship, and wonderful reports of mission-related activities in 2004.

President Gloria Wasacase convened the meetings. Reports from all presbyterials indicated that knitting pneumonia vests for babies was one of the high priorities of the women. Some of the ways reported on how to enfold others in Christ's love were: bed kits for Sri Lanka, sharing our money generously, having Mission Awareness Sundays to let others know what is happening through our Society, offering disaster relief, taking food to the sick and elderly, having books available for shut-ins, and retreats for spiritual renewal.

The Rev. Judith Archer-Green led us in a Bible study pointing to the need of being one with God.

On Wednesday, guest speaker Marjorie Ross gave an overview of our missionaries abroad. Our dedication to these projects is vital, and Marjorie indicated how important it was that we continue to correspond with the missionaries with cards and letters to encourage them. She also mentioned that sending youth on mission exposure trips is a way of encouraging mission work.

Our two days together reminded us all why we are here: To love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Susie Strickler

Over 100 women attended the 58th annual meeting of the Synodical of **Toronto and Kingston** held on April 15–17 at Crieff Hills Community and Knox (Crieff) Church. The opening session, held in the Conference Hall, was one of warm fellowship that continued throughout the weekend. President Doreen Dath presided at the business meetings. Various reports were presented and discussed including a presentation by Synod Youth Consultant Colleen Wood. Karen Plater of Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) gave a very informative talk on HIV/AIDS.

Another highlight was the Saturday evening "Mission Fest." Each woman was assigned to one of three groups. In rotation, each group met with three different people regarding mission—Joe Reed on Central America, Wilma Welsh on India, and Joy Randall on her work in Taiwan. Following the "Fest," there was a surprise retirement celebration for Joy.

The induction of the executive of the Synodical took place at Knox Church during the Sunday morning service. The meeting closed on Sunday afternoon with Lynda Reid giving the benediction.

Mary Johnston

Presbyterial

The annual meeting of the **Bruce-Grey** Presbyterial met at Knox Church in Walkerton, Ontario, on April 7. President Alice Poland of Southampton greeted the gathering of 45 members. The Rev. Jeremy Sanderson welcomed everyone to Knox.

Alice Poland presided over the reports and business session. The Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Area Education Consultant, introduced the innovative Bible study *Consider it all Joy!*, which covers various mission areas of the Church.

Friendships have always been important to me. One special friend and I have become as close as sisters. We met when we were 14 and have remained close even though we rarely get to see each other. Distance does not scar friendship—sometimes it grows stronger because long distance conversations are about what is really important to each of us.

Being a member of The Presbyterian Church generates close friendships that last. The yearly Women's Camp in the second weekend of September at Camp Christopher is like a family reunion. Women from all over Saskatchewan, and from out of province, get together to enjoy each other's company. This weekend is a chance to catch up on our adventures and lives, and to meet new friends.

April 30 was another family reunion time for me. The Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan hosted the event: "Telling God's Story: A Century of Presbyterianism in Saskatchewan." What a wonderful time to hug friends from my past. The day was filled with laughter, singing, and remembering people and church events.

Special visitors were the Rev. James Nisbett, a missionary to this part of the Northwest Territories and founder of Prince Albert; Chief Mistawasis, chief of the reserve where the Rev. John McKay was the first missionary; and Lucy Baker, the first woman missionary to serve in this area of the Northwest Territories. The Rev. Rick Fee was the guest speaker on Saturday and conducted the worship service on Sunday.

In addition, the WMS in Saskatchewan offers a chance each spring to gather with other women for the Women's Spring Gathering.

Special thanks to the WMS women from Calvin Church in Saskatoon; they are the ones who started me on my friendship road by asking the Deaconess to start a Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) group in our church in 1958. Friendships are important in each of our lives. The closest friend we can ever meet is always beside us each hour. We are blessed by our Father's love.

Diana Sinden

June Campbell, President of Barrie Presbyterial, gave highlights of her 30 years with the WMS and spoke about *Glad Tidings* to help celebrate the 80th anniversary of this mission publication. June paid tribute to June Stevenson, the previous editor and assured us that Holly Wilson is settling in very well.

Sandra Barker of Owen Sound reported that two bales of knitted goods were sent to India—a total of 72 pneumonia vests and caps, and 10 baby blankets. St. Andrew's Church in Owen Sound will continue to be the collection point for this project.

Eva Metler

The **Essex-Kent** Presbyterial held its annual meeting on March 17 at St. Andrew's Church in Windsor, Ontario. The Rev. Jennifer Cameron gave greetings on behalf of the host church. President Lily Jones constituted the meeting with prayer and Secretary Muriel Brown read the minutes. Annual reports were accepted as printed. Doris Bryant gave us an enthusiastic *Glad Tidings* report. Eleanor Hansen gave the nominating report followed by reviews on several of the books she had on display.

A tasty lunch, followed by a singalong, led us into the afternoon session. Barbara Root introduced our guest speaker Helen Palmer. Helen graduated from nursing school at Grace Hospital in Windsor and after working at various hospitals she attended the London Bible Institute. Later, she worked with the Regions Beyond Missionary Union and spent approximately 20 years in North Bihar, India. Fran Monk thanked Helen for an interesting and enjoyable talk.

Corresponding Secretary Alice Brown named the delegates to Synodical and the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs installed the new officers. Our new President, Connie Brown, introduced new business and made some announcements. Linda Price of Leamington gave the courtesies and the meeting closed with prayer.

Frances Monk

Members of St. Marys group were in charge of registration for the postponed annual meeting of **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial. Jean Aitcheson welcomed everyone to Avonton Church. Ina McMillan presided at the meeting. The literature secretary, Lois Horne, recommended several books from the WMS Book Room in Toronto.

The Rev. Gwen Brown, assisted by Kintail Camp Director Graham Gould, showed a video update of the camp's improvements and future plans. WMS President Margaret McGillivray also addressed the group.

Following lunch, Mary Scott introduced the guest speaker Audiologist Susan Schlacht, who described her experiences in El Salvador when she went with a group to fit children with hearing aids.

Jean Aitcheson, who is leaving for Guatemala with a group of Friends of the Orphanage, thanked the women for their donations and requested help with sewing pyjamas using donated T-shirt material.

Jean Edmunds installed the officers for 2005 and Lillian Sparling gave courtesy remarks.

Ruth Laing

The **London** Presbyterial annual retreat was on May 5 at Knox-St. Andrews in Dutton, Ontario. The theme for the meeting was *Joy in Sharing*. Fifty-one members and guests registered. Kevin White and Linda Roe from the "Praise Band" led a hymn-sing to start the morning. London Presbyterial President Ida Human opened the meeting with prayer.

Everyone really enjoyed playing the following three games. Win Files led two games, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and a version of "Jeopardy" with whistle blowing to ring in the answers. Kathy Gillard led the third game where four teams sang a favourite song by making a favourite sound and an annoying noise. No one became a "Millionaire," Marg Fields from Burns won top prize at "Jeopardy," and there were no winners in the singing contest—there was too much laughing. A pizza lunch was provided by the Knox women and enjoyed by all.

Lorne Spicer presented a slide presentation that included butterflies and wildflowers found in the Dutton area. Twin sisters Verna Legg and Lena Duncan were to speak on their lives as twins. Unfortunately, Lena was hospitalized so Verna entertained us with many *twin* stories. Mildred Greig extended courtesies and Ida Human closed the meeting with prayer.

Judith Heal

On March 19th the Cote des Neiges Church held the 91st annual meeting of the **Montreal** Presbyterial. The meeting began with a welcome from Linda Gerry. The Rev. John Vaudry gave a brief history of the church, which was founded in 1864. He also gave the devotion on the theme *Unity in the Church*. The business meeting that followed was chaired by President Genevieve Holding. The Literature Secretaries, Lois Klempa and Druse Bryan, gave book reviews, and Grace Thornley-Brown read the In Memorials: Mr. Chin and Moung Kwong, Anne Beaulieu, Eunice Brown, Willa Hooker, and Mary Wand.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Lois Klempa. Using the theme *From the Old World to the New*, Lois showed slides of her, and her husband's, trip to Egypt.

After a delicious lunch, there was a hymn-sing led by the women of Cote des Neiges and accompanied by Anke Carrington on the piano. Anita Mack led a short program called "In the Steps of St. Paul."

Grace Thornley-Brown gave the report of the nominating committee and the Rev. John Vaudry installed the officers for the coming year.

Lorna Smith

The **Sarnia** Presbyterial held its annual meeting on February 17 at Paterson Memorial Church in Sarnia, Ontario. Sheila Henderson, President of the Paterson Church Nora Seaton Auxiliary, welcomed everyone.

Co-President Margaret MacDonald opened the meeting with prayer and the WMS Purpose. Minutes and reports from 2004 showed another successful year. Approximately $24,000 was allocated to support the mission work of the WMS. Several groups knitted pneumonia vests, baby hats, and blankets, which were sent to Christian Hospitals in Africa and India where these articles are really needed. It is with regret that the Helen Scott Society from West Adelaide and the Paterson Greta Adams Auxiliary have disbanded.

Fleur Eenkhoorn conducted a Bible study on the "Story of Talents" encouraging us to share and use our talents to help strengthen the WMS and the church. Fleur introduced the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs, Area Education Consultant, who conducted a workshop on "job descriptions." Anne said that all WMS officers are important as this organization is the network that keeps people informed about missionaries and the work they do and how we can support them. An important mission of The Presbyterian Church in Canada this year is to work "Towards a World Without AIDS," as this disease is spreading at an alarming rate. Our financial support helps to finance educational and medical aid programs.

After lunch, the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs installed the officers for 2005. The Nora Seaton Group led the closing worship and memorial service on the theme *Light*.

Marilyn Shaw

Off to India! Members of Waterloo-Wellington Presbyterial packed pneumonia vests and baby caps to send to India.

Sheilah Omah-Maharajh wishes to say thank you to the WMS Council, friends, etc. for their prayers and support during her recent illness:

I Just Want to Say Thank you

Guide us to you, Lord, in our present concerns,
I place my faith in you for I know that nothing is impossible.
For you have given me your help.
Lord, I need you.

Your grace is sufficient for us.
Your strength is made perfect in our weakness to produce results.
So, if we are facing a crisis and medicine has failed us,
then rejoice for when human strength ends and the power of God excels.

O God, we thank you for enabling us to glorify you in our daily life by serving,
while freeing us from pride and self importance.
Enable us to strive increasingly for the welfare of those less fortunate
and increase in us a sense of true respect for all peoples,
loyalty in service, and happiness in our daily task.

We thank you, Dear Lord, for the WMS and for all the women,
who gave so unselfishly in helping me and others in prayers.
I ask you to shower blessings of strength and grace
for all who supported me during my trying time of sickness.

Bless us all, Lord, as we continue our task to glorify your holy name.
We ask all these things in the name of your Son Our Lord.

Amen

Sheilah Omah-Maharajh

Praise and Joy in the Lord was the theme of the **East Toronto** Presbyterial's annual meeting on February 26 at St. Andrew's Church in Scarborough. President Doris McAndless welcomed everyone and Eleanor Dean conveyed greetings from West Toronto Presbyterial. Gwen Moore of St. Andrew's gave the devotions and the offering of $425 was designated for Glen Mhor Camp.

Following the business meeting, Lorna Teare introduced our guests, the Venables—a Salvation Army family with six children, who truly blessed us with their instrumental and vocal interpretation of our theme. Ina Hill thanked the family for sharing their talents with us and Pat Musson led us in a time of prayer. Audrey Hill delivered the In Memoriam for the dear friends we have lost this past year.

The Rev. Priscilla Anderson installed the new executive and conducted the closing worship. Following the meeting, the women of St. Andrew's provided a lovely lunch and the book display table was well patronized.

Jean Rankine

Local

The WMS of Knox Church in Morrisburg, Ontario held an appreciation-celebration for associate members. This annual event honours Home Helpers who lend their support through givings in their Mite boxes. Their co-operation lends outstanding assistance in our endeavours to support the Life and Mission Agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and enables us to contribute to these outreach agencies in a more substantial way. On the local level, our small group contributes to four local programs in need of assistance and we keep in touch with our foster child as well as write greetings to shut-ins and missionaries in the field.

Margaret Thom

WMS members from nine churches gathered at St. Andrew's Church in Norwood, Ontario, for the spring meeting. Members enjoyed great hospitality and a warm welcome from the Norwood WMS and the Rev. Roger Millar. Norwood members Jackie Kelly and Dale Senior with Helen King playing the piano led the worship in song. Outgoing President Muriel Bell of Port Hope was honoured for her term of innovative leadership with the gift of an Honorary Life Membership and pin by incoming president Cecilia Morris of Cobourg. Annual reports from past meetings, local groups, and delegates to Synodical and Council were informative. Treasurer Jean Coull of Cobourg reported that the 2004 objective for mission projects was met; in 2005 the objective will again total $19,000.

During lunch hour, members perused the book display and memorabilia from Taiwan. The items from Taiwan belonged to guest speaker Joy Randall. Joy gave an overview of Taiwan's history and how the Christian Church has helped the people. She then related this to the challenges and changes she experienced as a missionary nurse. She started her career at Changhua Hospital, which had 150 beds. When she retired from her position as Director of Nursing, she left a staff of 5,000 who serve at Changhua, in two branch hospitals, and several clinics with accommodation for 1,700 beds. Changhua is among the top ten modern accredited hospitals in Taiwan. Its outpatient department serves 6,000 to 7,000 patients a day. Joan Smith of Port Hope thanked Joy for speaking. The Rev. Lynda Reid, who installed the incoming officers, also conducted the closing communion service.

Autumn Adventure, a joint meeting between Lindsay and Peterborough Presbyterial Mission groups, will be held on October 22, 2005 at Elim Lodge on Pigeon Lake. This event is planned for all the women in our churches. Please join us for a wonderful day away. Contact your local Presbyterian Church for more details.

Young people of St. Andrew's, Tweed

The young people of St. Andrew's in Tweed, Ontario spent some time during the March Break to learn of the life and issues of the people of Ghana. Following the program designed by "Partners," the young people worshipped, listened to stories from other missionaries in Africa, gleaned information from the archives in Toronto, and made crafts and a model village to understand better what life is like in that part of the world. The program, aptly named "Mission Possible" has run for two years now at St. Andrew's during the school break.

The members of St. John's WMS in White Rock, British Columbia received a special and unexpected gift from Ghana, Africa: a lovely coloured cloth about 6 ft. x 4 ft. It has the logo of the Presbyterian Church in Ghana on it, plus the motto "Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."

Dede-Oforiwa Tetteh visited St. John's two years ago and spoke of her work operating a day care in Bawaleshie. She is a 66-year-old nurse and is excited about the work she is doing. In gratitude for the gift of money we gave her on her visit, she sent us this most interesting and historical cloth. It is displayed in our church hall. The cloth was a fitting object for Sheila Jakus to use for the children's story on April 24 for Mission Awareness Sunday. Five members of the WMS participated in the service. President Arlene Duff led the worship service and Molly Doka delivered the sermon written by the Rev. Dr. Glen Davis. Members of the congregation voiced their thanks to the women for this moving service.

On April 24th the WMS of St. Andrew's Church in Kitchener, Ontario conducted the evening service using the Mission Awareness material. The members led in the call to worship, prayers, scripture readings, sermon, and benediction. The service was followed by refreshments with an opportunity to view mission displays on fair trade, PWS&D, *Presbyterian Sharing…*, and WMS projects.

WMS
Local
Presby terial
Synodical

WMS afternoon guild members of Whalley Church in Surrey, British Columbia display colourful baby blankets knitted for children in Malawi.

Mission Awareness Sunday at St. Andrew's in Welland, Ontario. Back row: Cheryl Lemmex, Margaret Hicks, Edythe Phillips. Front row: Marilyn Leslie, Shirley Barnhart, Margaret Milburn, and Betty Rose.

Circulation News

Katherine Allen

In August, a mailing was sent to all *Glad Tidings* Secretaries/contact persons that included the list of subscribers and ideas for promotion for 2006. Please notify us by mid-September if your congregation has not received this mailing. The deadline for subscriptions is November 1, 2005 at a cost of $12.00 for six issues. As mentioned in the March/April issue, we can supply you with up to 50 copies of the magazine for promotion.

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Forward in Faith

Have you ever shared a Minute for Mission on the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) with your congregation? You might consider using something like this:

Within congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC), WMS groups have kept mission alive. WMS members also support *Presbyterians Sharing...* and Presbyterian World Service & Development through their local congregations.

WMS members are not only involved in the full life of their congregations, but also have their own programs—providing leadership within their own groups. Each year the WMS takes mission study and other projects very seriously. Over this past year, many groups studied the Bhil people in Central India and followed very closely the struggle of the Bhils.

Until the amalgamation of the work of both home and overseas missions in 1973, the WMS made its own missionary appointments both in Canada and abroad. Since then, the WMS has continued to support the national church through second mile givings. Each year, the WMS gives $150,000 to the PCC's general fund; $390,000 toward the support of regional staff in Canada; $10,000 toward children and youth programs; and $10,000 for Christian Literature. Just to name a few, grants approved for this year are: Canada Youth 2006, Evangel Hall, and Anishinabe. A special grant of $15,000 was given toward the PCC's national campaign on HIV/AIDS. Let us give thanks to God for faithful WMS members, who have kept mission alive in the congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in the past and continue to do so.

Wilma Welsh

IN REMEMBRANCE

Mabel Baker
Knox, Calgary, AB

Christine Ford
Knox-St. Andrew's,
Dutton, ON

Isabelle McNeil
Amy Pottruff
St. Paul's, Hamilton, ON

Mrs. Annie MacKay
Willis, Jarratt, ON

Genevra (Nevie) Watson
West Adelaide,
Kerwood, ON

Majorie McColl
London, ON

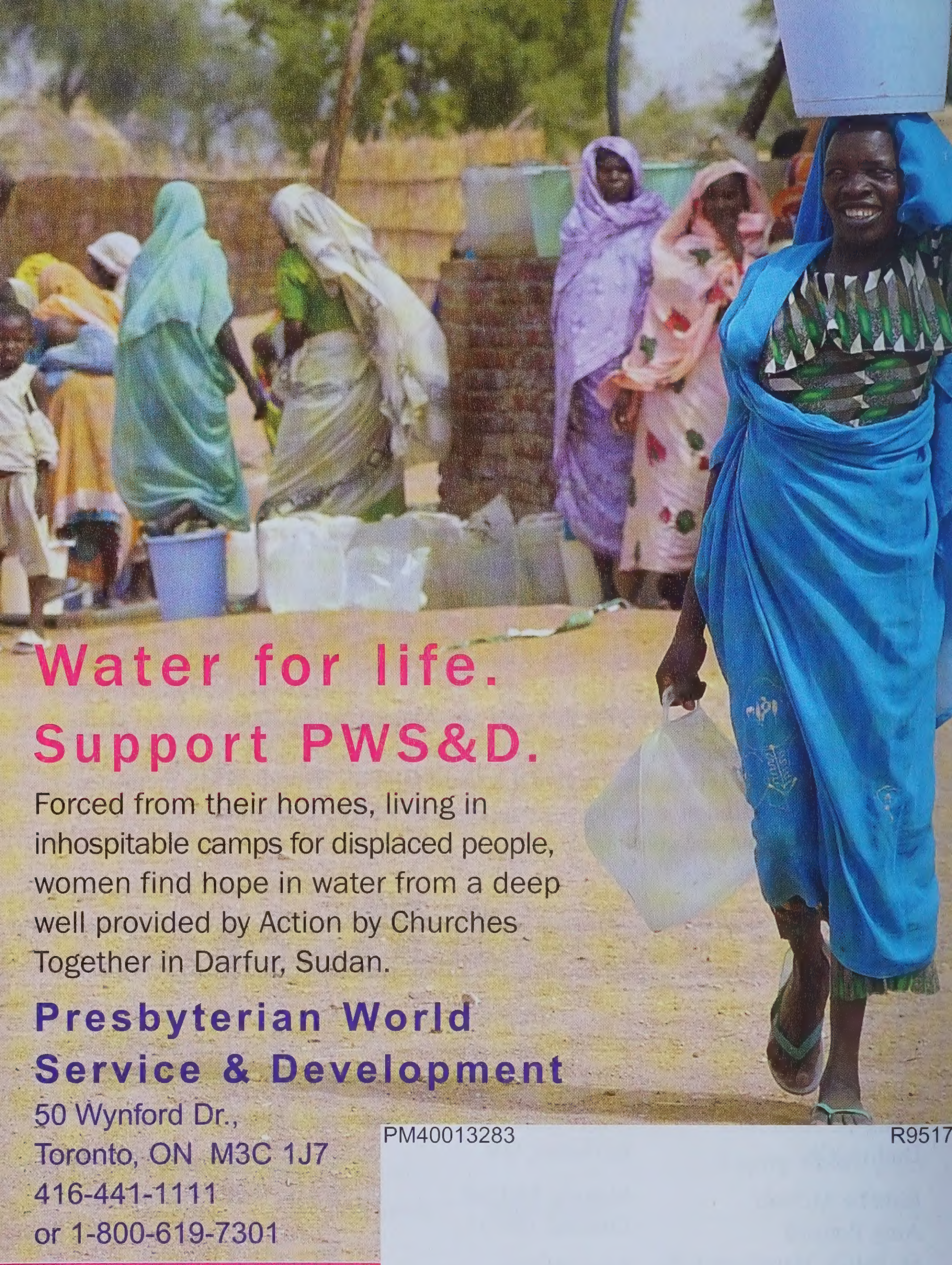
Edna Waldie
Knox, Milton, ON

Margaret McKenzie
St. Paul's, Ottawa, ON

Verna Pope
St. Andrew's, Perth, ON

Margaret Russell
Knox, Port Alberni, BC

Mrs. Mora Bennett
Knox, St. Catharines, ON



Water for life.
Support PWS&D.

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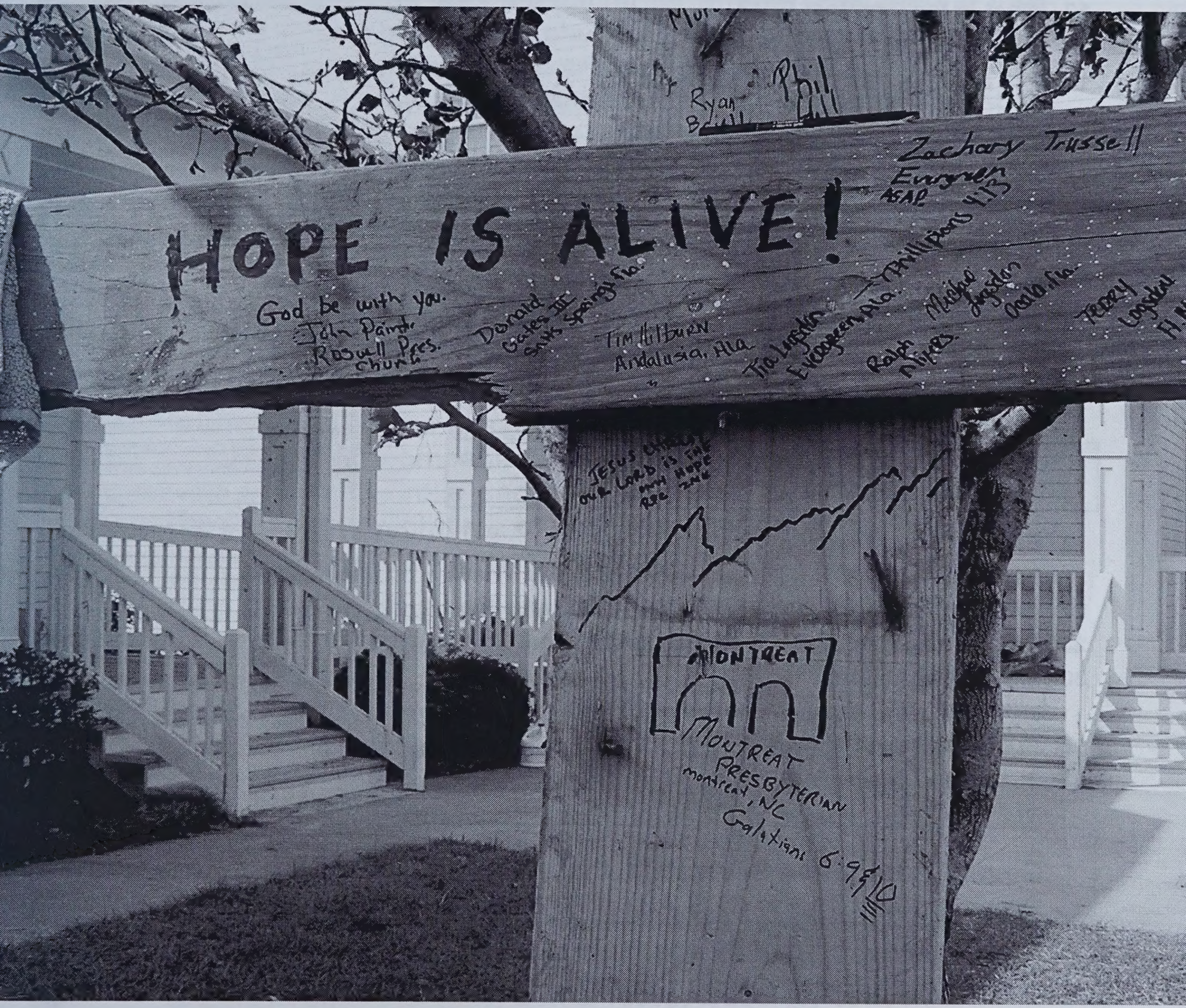
Glad Tidings

November/December 2005



HOPE IS ALIVE!
God be with you. John Paine Roswell Pres. Church
Donald Gates III
Tim Hilburn Andalusia, Ala
Tia Logsdon Evergreen, Ala.
Phillipians 4:13
Michael Logsdon Ocala, Fla.
Ralph Nipes
Terry Logsdon
Zachary Trussell Evergreen ASAP
Ryan
Phil
Jesus Christ our Lord is the only hope
MONTREAT
Montreat Presbyterian montreat, NC Galatians 6:9&10

80 years

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Cover Photo: Evan Silverstein, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A wood cross posted by volunteer workers outside First Presbyterian Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, conveys an optimistic message.

Glad Tidings

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GLAD TIDINGS reports on aspects of the Women's Missionary Society on all levels.

GLAD TIDINGS challenges concerned Christians to reflect on their faith through articles and reports related to mission and social justice issues, locally, nationally, and internationally.

GLAD TIDINGS through its content, encourages readers to become informed, educated, inspired, and motivated to action.

GLAD TIDINGS provides a forum for a broad spectrum of opinion and information, thus the views expressed in features, news reports, letters, and book reviews are not necessarily endorsed by the WMS or by the Editor.

Holly Wilson

Editor's Thoughts

Following Hurricane Katrina's devastation of the Gulf Coast, I found myself offering words of comfort and hope to a friend over the phone. My friend was distressed at the magnitude of suffering and like everyone else, he was searching for answers—someone must be to blame! When I hung up the phone, I was surprised by my optimism because I felt as horrified by the crisis as any one else. As I watched the events unfold, however, I witnessed a flicker of hope amidst the destruction. I saw rescue workers from British Columbia rush to the aid of people in Louisiana. I saw Texas open its arms to thousands of displaced survivors. I heard a man say that he took food, not for himself, but to feed others. There was a reason to hope.

What I learned from this disaster, and what I still can't quite shake off, is how fragile we all are. How utterly dependent we are on one another and how nothing matters but how we treat each other and the earth. In worship the other day, we sang the hymn, "Brother, sister, let me serve you." I was touched by Verses 2 and 3: "We are pilgrims on a journey, and companions on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear."

I am still trying to make sense of the devastation and to calm my own fears for the future of this planet. In the meantime, especially at Christmas, I keep reminding myself that God loves each of us and I am comforted by the words in the hymn above and by other verses, such as the words found in 1 Corinthians: "Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love." (1 Corinthians 13:12b–13)

Christmas blessings to the readers of *Glad Tidings* and special thanks to Jean Rankine, Lorna Teare, Deborah Leader, and Rosina Daillie for their help with the production of the magazine.

MISSION POSSIBLE

by Clifford E. Denay, Jr.

Our single engine Cessna Caravan came in low over the rooftops of Punta Gorda, a small village near the Guatemalan border in southern Belize. The 11 members of our mission team were silent, exhausted. This was our third and final stop since landing in Belize City earlier in the afternoon. Later I learned, because of the fading sunlight, we had only one shot at the unlit landing strip. Truly, ignorance is bliss.

The small town's lights sparkled below us like fireflies. Our lone pilot had flown with confident abandon, manhandling the aircraft's wheel with his left hand and speaking a rapid fire Mayan dialect into a walkie talkie he held with his right. After touching down safely, I laughed when my nurse practitioner wife, Jane, turned to me and said, "What a cowboy!"

What in the name of heaven am I doing here? I thought. I have never had a "missionary mind." In fact, I fought this trip from the moment our youth director proposed it. My list of reasons for not being on this airplane was long. Yet, here I was. My arguments against the journey ranged from safety for the team members in a Third World country to a personal fear of flying. "Also," I reasoned, "God has other work for me to do." Like keeping my nose to the grindstone at home.

It turned out I was wrong.

God spoke to me through the voices of other team members, who encouraged and prodded me to join them. Still, I protested. Then one evening, Don, a quiet neurologist in our small group, spoke in a whisper, "Cliff, these concerns have a way of working out. Why not give it a try?" His words were spoken with compassion for my fears. At that moment, I knew I was in. This trip was my trip; this work was my work. This call was my call. Now my team was about to land in another world.

The children's orphanage we had been invited to visit needed a lot of repair because of hurricane damage. So we quickly set to work. Out came water-soaked ceiling panels in the school's classrooms. Termite-damaged rafters were replaced. We painted the repaired rooms, replaced broken doors, and worked in the neglected flower beds. Often, the orphanage children worked alongside our team. Soon, constant smiles, loving glances, and endless hugging began to add up. We all fell in love with each other. And our lives were forever changed.

THIS TRIP WAS MY TRIP; THIS WORK WAS MY WORK. THIS CALL WAS MY CALL.

Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37) The phrase I often hear is, "There's too much to do and not enough people to do it." Because of the love of a small group of children in Belize and my church mission team, I have come to understand that God's call may mean an actual trip to a part of the world I would just as soon not see. But I've also learned something else. A "mission trip" can be taken in my hometown. Simply volunteering to be a soup kitchen worker or asking to be assigned to a struggling church committee can be a mission experience. Or it may be my turn to be a Sunday school teacher. My local homeless shelter may need a temporary short order cook. Or the local community college may need my tutoring skills for struggling students. The mission possibilities (and needs) are endless and often nearby. And, I've decided to listen and stop running away from them.

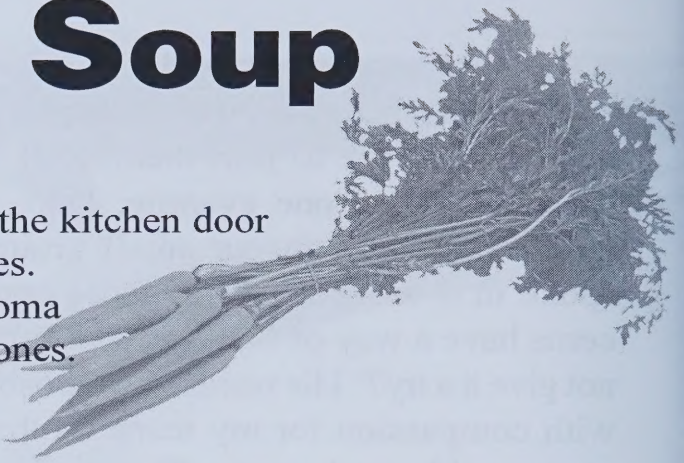
Now, when I hear the question, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" I want to answer with Isaiah, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

Yes, send me!

Clifford E. Denay, Jr. holds an M.A. in counselling and an Ed. S. He is an adjunct professor of psychology and a licensed professional counsellor at North Central Michigan College. He and his wife, Jane, have two grown children.

Grandma's Soup

by Vera Jensen

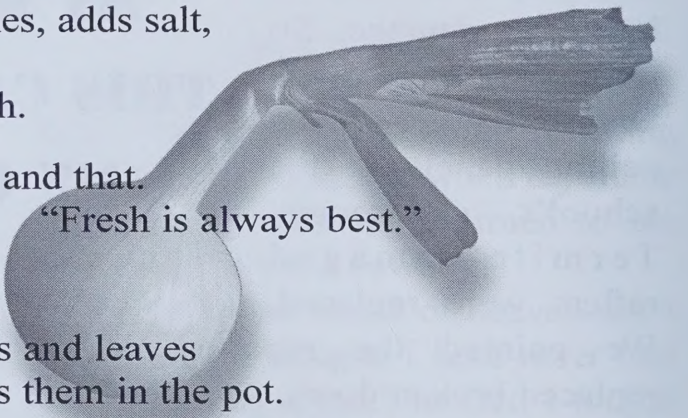


One Friday, Grandma's dogs crowd round the kitchen door
eager tails, fawning tongues.
Like me they sniff the rich aroma
of baking beef bones.
"Sunday night?" I ask.
"Of course."

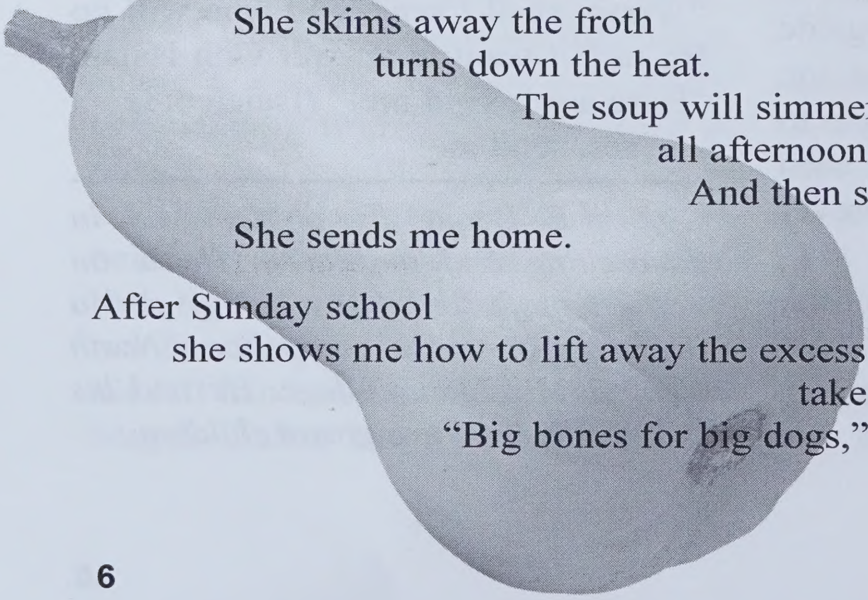
My mother calls Aunt May
"Grandma's making soup,"
Phones ring
"Grandma's making soup."

On Saturday,
Grandma laughs when slicing onions makes me cry
lets me chop celery instead.
Her largest pot is set upon the stove.
She sautés onions, celery, covers them with stock
tosses in the roasted bones, adds salt,
turns the heat up high.
I help chop carrots, turnips, squash.

We prowl about her garden picking this and that.
"Fresh is always best."
She peers into the refrigerator
finds slightly withered,
dried out stalks and leaves
throws them in the pot.
The bits that are too old for soup are sent out to the compost pile.
She skims away the froth
turns down the heat.
The soup will simmer now
all afternoon.
And then she'll set it out to cool.
She sends me home.

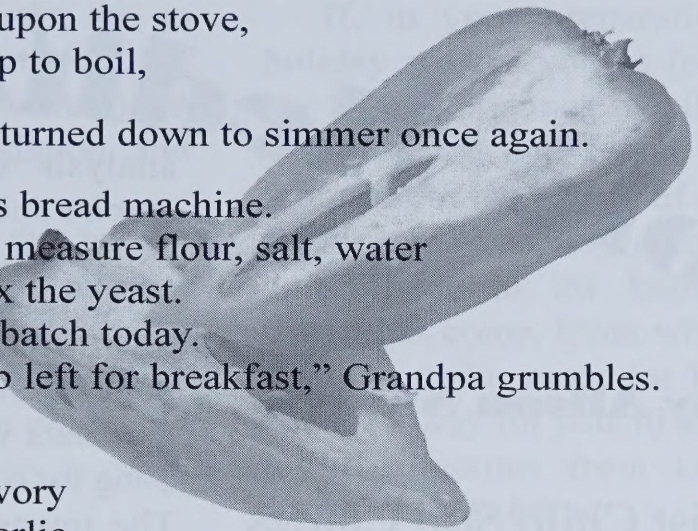


After Sunday school
she shows me how to lift away the excess fat,
take out the bones.
"Big bones for big dogs,"



They take their treasures gently from her hands.
The pot is back upon the stove,
brought up to boil,

turned down to simmer once again.



Grandpa is fussing with his bread machine.
He shows me how to measure flour, salt, water
mix the yeast.
This is the second batch today.
"There won't be one crumb left for breakfast," Grandpa grumbles.

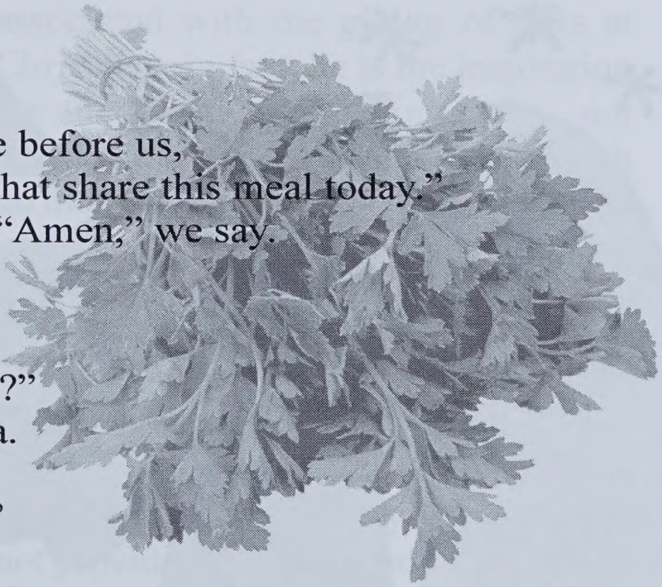
Grandma snips herbs
parsley, thyme, savory
I mince garlic.

The house fills up with aunts, uncles, cousins, special friends
and wonderful aromas.
Someone volunteers to set the bowls and plates,
the spoons and glasses out.

Grandpa's bread is crusty brown, he cuts thick ragged slices.
There's cheese and pickles too
and pies and fruit.
At last we take our places round the table

we bow our heads.

"Dear Lord in Heaven," Grandpa prays,
"We thank you for the bounty here before us,
and for the loving hearts that share this meal today."
"Amen," we say.



We lift our spoons and wait.
Grandma sips her soup
"Perhaps a tad more salt?"
She looks at Grandpa.
"Your soup is perfect, Maud,
I'll have a little pepper though."
He always does.

Vera Jensen is a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, retired teacher, writer, and gardener. The joys, fears, tears, and laughter these professions encompass are reflected in her poetry and prose. She lived for many years on the very edge of the ocean on the east coast of Vancouver Island, only recently moving a short way inland and into the town of Comox, British Columbia.

Bible Meditations

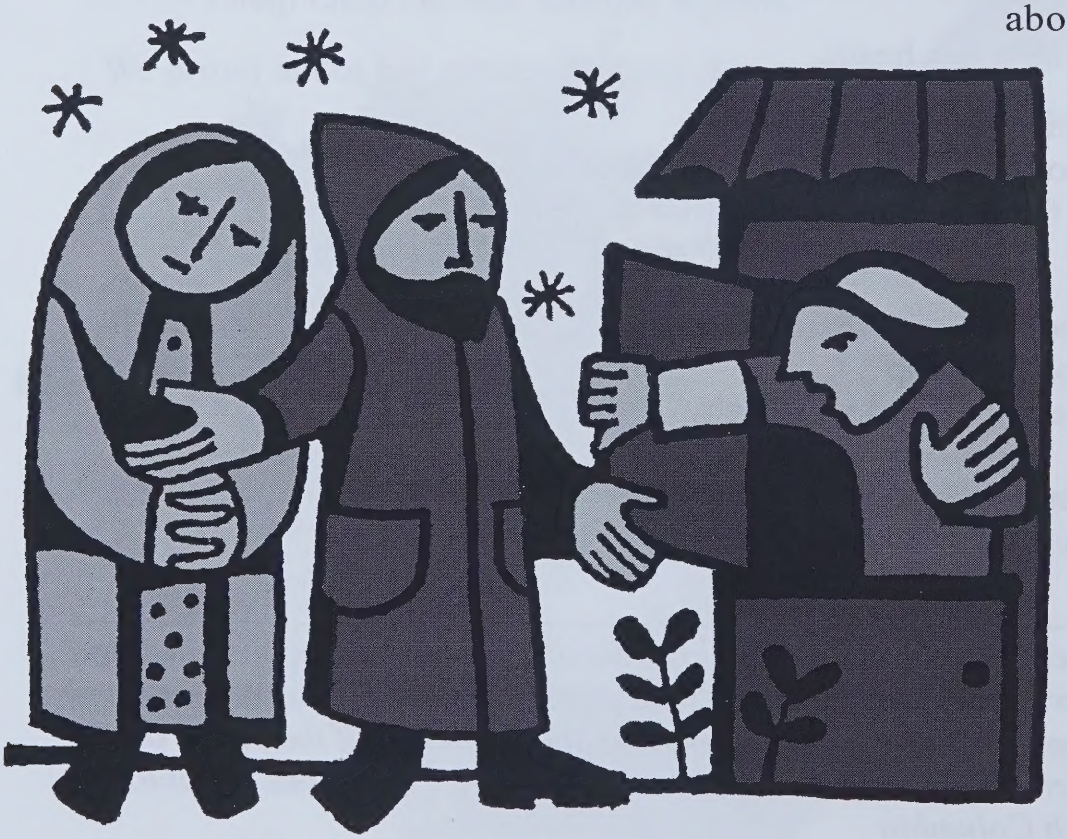
by Alison Sharpe

The Christ Child Still Comes

Read Luke 2:1–7

In those days of the census, the little town of Bethlehem must have been swarming with activity. Anyone in the entire Roman world whose birthplace was Bethlehem had to return there to be counted, so that Caesar Augustus would have his statistical analysis of the population of his empire and a basis for a system of tax collection.

It is easy to imagine, in a little town with resources suited to its small population, that this sudden influx of travellers would have everyone scrambling for accommodations and supplies. The townspeople would be worn out and worn thin trying to provide for their own and for all those visitors. Not all would arrive on the same day, of course, the process probably took several months, but no doubt, things were getting pretty grim. On the day that Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the inn. No one seemed to care about the woman who was already experiencing the pains of labour, nor to know the significance of this child that was to be born. Everyone was intent on their own business.



Two thousand years later, it seems that not much has changed. In our little town, there is a bustle of activity. No, there is no census (we are already numbered and taxed!). The activity and busyness upon which we are so intent is our preparation for the Christmas season. We are, in our own way, vying for accommodation and supplies.

We are caught up in the hectic, sometimes frantic, work of buying, baking, making, mailing, and trying to keep all our family members happy. Even in our service clubs and churches the level of activity is often overwhelming!

Sometimes I sit back and wonder if we're not back in Bethlehem. The people who bustled and scrambled, who vied for space and food in Bethlehem, were not there because of the birth of Jesus. Their busyness and their intentions had nothing to do with the Christ child. Perhaps we need to ask the question of ourselves: What has our bustling and scrambling to prepare and purchase, our vying for those "limited edition" toys and gifts, our storing up of rich foods and treats, to do with Jesus? Is there any room for the birth of the Christ child in our Christmas?

Probably not much. But there is hope for us. Luke tells us that even though there was no room in the inn—in the crowded, hectic pace of life—Christ was born, in the quiet corner of a stable. In spite of ourselves and our frantic activity, in spite of the fact that many neither know nor care about the significance of the event, the Christ child will be born again in our hearts.

If, in your preparations for the holiday season, you've forgotten why we have Christmas at all, stop what you're doing and spend a few quiet moments in the corner of the stable in Bethlehem. You will come to realize and rejoice in the knowledge that Christ has come. Even when we don't seem to make room for him, he still comes. I pray for you all the peace and joy that comes from knowing the Christ child is born.

Give Like Saint Nicholas

Read Matthew 6:1–4

The season of giving is fast approaching. The next several weeks will find most of us occupied in finding just the right gifts for our loved ones and friends. The famous Saint Nicholas has long been associated with the giving of gifts at Christmas; in fact, he is the inspiration for the practice of giving gifts…not exchanging gifts, but giving gifts with no thought of getting anything in return.

Saint Nicholas was born around 280 A.D., in a small town in Asia Minor, present-day Turkey. Perhaps one of the most well-known stories of Saint Nicholas tells of a poor man who lived with his three daughters. Such was this man's financial difficulty that he could not provide a dowry for his girls, which meant that they could not get married. In those days, the only "opportunities" for poor girls were to be sold into slavery or to become prostitutes.

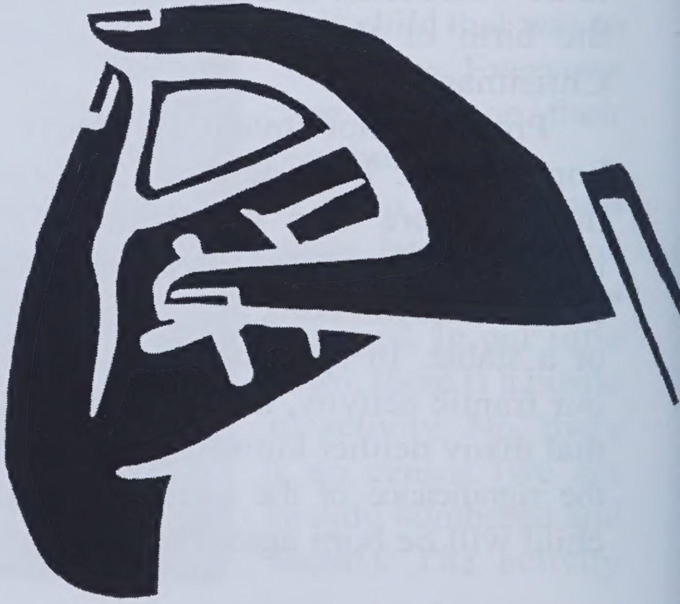
Discovering their plight, Nicholas placed a large number of gold pieces in a small bag and tossed it through an open window. With his gift, the eldest daughter was able to acquire her dowry and be married. Later, he did the same for each of the two younger daughters. Nicholas attempted to provide the gifts anonymously, but he was discovered by the father during his third visit. News of the generosity of the quiet saint travelled far and long; and so throughout history depictions of Saint Nicholas often include three gold pouches.

In attempting to give his gifts anonymously, Nicholas was simply following the command of his Lord Jesus Christ, who instructed his disciples: "Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matthew 6: 1–4)

Few people in our Christian history have inspired as many people and nations as the humble, generous priest who later became Bishop of Myra. Many legends surround his name, but in each of the stories rests the truth of his loving-kindness and generosity. He has shaped a tradition that envelops people all over the world as they celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we remember and celebrate Christ's own spirit of giving…first in the stable and then on the cross, let's remember those who need our help and our gifts in order to have a joyous Christmas. Let's give in the spirit of Saint Nicholas, generously, with loving-kindness toward those in need, anonymously if we can, expecting nothing in return.

Alison Sharpe shares the ministry at Renfrew Presbyterian Church and the joys of family with her husband Brian. She loves to write and share stories of life and faith. Reprinted with permission from A Puddle is an Ocean*, a collection of inspirational articles published in Renfrew, Ontario.*



Presbyterians Launch Hurricane Katrina Appeal

photo: Evan Silverstein, PC (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian World Service & Development's (PWS&D) partner, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) of The Presbyterian Church USA, is actively responding to Hurricane Katrina. They tell us that Hurricane Katrina is one of the most destructive hurricanes ever to hit the United States, and that post-hurricane damage in Mississippi and Louisiana is massive and unprecedented.

Flooding in Mississippi was devastating for at least six miles inland. Biloxi and other coastal communities were hit by a 25-foot storm surge, and PDA has heard that there are no houses unaffected in the city of Biloxi. Two new levee breaches sent water from Lake Pontchartrain coursing through the eastern part of New Orleans. Local officials estimated that 80 per cent of the city was flooded, with some areas under 20 feet of water.

PDA has issued an appeal for $10 million to help in this response and is committed to co-ordinating their efforts with other Christians to extend their response as far as possible. PDA has been alerted that several Presbyterian churches have sustained damage. Therefore, in addition to providing help for disaster survivors, they will also aid pastors who are struggling to support members of their congregations while also dealing with their personal loss, and help with church repair and/or rebuilding.

Please join us as we offer our prayers for the people affected by this disaster—those who have lost family members and friends; those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed; and those who have lost livelihoods. Please pray for faithful Presbyterians and others who are giving of their time, talents, and treasure to minister to those in need.

PWS&D has sent a message of support to PDA. Congregations and individuals wishing to financially support the PDA's disaster response can send donations to PWS&D clearly marked "Hurricane Katrina."

Presbyterian World Service & Development, 50 Wynford Dr. Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
(416) 441-1111 or 1-800-619-7301 pwsd@presbyterian.ca

What is the Greatest Gift?

If you were asked what Evangel Hall "does" to help people, what would you say?

You could say we provide meals and clothing to the homeless. You might mention the voluntary trust, addictions, and housing assistance programs. Hopefully you would mention our new building project that will provide greatly expanded space for these programs, as well as apartments for people with low-incomes!

After you visit Evangel Hall through the story below, does your answer change? In it, you are one of our program participants—someone who is financially poor, homeless, carrying all your possessions on your weary and rapidly aging back, constantly seeking sanctuary.

> It's Tuesday afternoon at Evangel Hall and you're just in time. You climb the familiar and numerous stairs to reach the kitchen on the second floor. Keep going. You don't want to be late. The Women's Group is starting.
>
> The weekly lunch is shared and conversations flow. At the end of the meal you pack some of the leftovers. Money is scarce and this will have to be tomorrow's dinner.
>
> It's time for prayer requests. Together, staff, volunteers, and the women in the group pray for everything from a friend's ailing cat to a son who has been in a car accident. You pray for people in need of food, shelter, and fellowship but have none. (Here at least you have these things even if it's just for a few hours.)
>
> It's a crafts day and you want to finish sewing a new pair of pants. As usual, a volunteer helps you set up the sewing machine and get started. You look forward to sharing the afternoon with your friends in the group. It's Tuesday and the Women's Group is underway.

In this story, what would you say Evangel Hall "did" for you as a person in need? We provided meals that would otherwise be unaffordable. We provided safe shelter for a few hours. We helped make a new pair of pants. Yes, we provided many practical, necessary things.

But the list is incomplete. What about fellowship? Healthy, safe community can be hard to find for someone who is homeless and has almost no financial resources. Yet, it is so important for a person's sense of self-worth and opportunities for growth.

Each of us understands the need to be a welcomed member of a community, be it in our families, our friends, or our congregations. This need is within each of us, regardless of living status or financial situation.

At Evangel Hall, we strive to help each person who enters our doors know that they are a child of God, worthy of the utmost care and devotion. Through a ministry that provides assistance in the physical and practical matters of life, we engage people in need and invite them to share in fellowship, to be part of a community.

The greatest gifts we can share with another person can't be wrapped in pretty paper and tucked under a tree or into a stocking. They are the gifts of love, respect, and acceptance.

If you were asked again what Evangel Hall "does" to help people, would you also say we extend fellowship with people who are otherwise marginalized and alone? We hope so.

May you all enjoy the greatest blessings of this Christmas season, including the gifts that are wrapped and shared hand-to-hand, and those that are shared from heart-to-heart.

Evangel Hall's new building opening soon!

Construction is nearly complete on the new Evangel Hall. In December 2005, the doors will open.

The new site will include expanded space for outreach programs as well as low-income rental homes for over 130 people.

For more information or to make a donation, please call us at (416) 504-3563, ext. 230.

Staff Changes

Tricia Candy
Resource Consultant, The Book Room

The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) is pleased to announce that Tricia Candy has accepted the position of Resource Consultant for The Book Room. Tricia started working for the WMS on July 18, 2005 and says: "I am excited to be working in The Book Room, as being surrounded by books is a kind of personal heaven. Also, I look forward to learning many new things, and meeting new people throughout the course of my work here."

Tricia graduated from the University of Toronto in June 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and Culture. Much of her life over the past ten years has been consumed with Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda Synod Presbyterian Young People's Society of which she is currently the president. In her spare time, Tricia composes music, enjoys reading and writing fiction and poetry, and likes to spend time with family and friends. The WMS welcomes Tricia as she begins her responsibilities as The Book Room's Resource Consultant.

The Big Bad "B" Word of Retirement

by L. June Stevenson

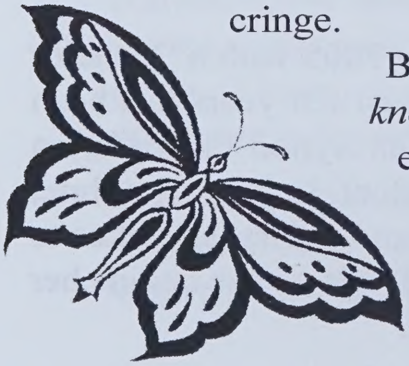
Is there life after 65? You bet there is. As the writing on my T-shirt says, "You aren't getting older. You're just getting better."

When I was preparing to retire, folks—especially retired ones—gave me lots of helpful advice: "Don't plan too much for the first few months, even year." "Learn to say 'no' until you know what you really want to do." "Take an extended vacation." "Don't feel that you have to clean out the attic right away."

My own simple three-point plan for retirement was to garden, see more of my grandchildren, and to write.

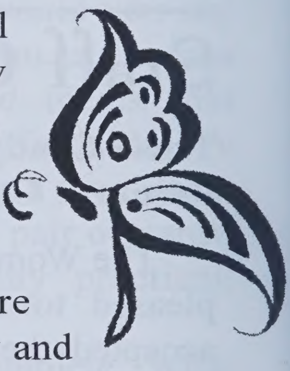
So many people said, "So you are retiring?! You will find that you are so *busy* you'll never know how you managed to work." I heard that "B" word so many times it made me cringe.

But I did get *you know what*, and I even used *that* word! After biting my tongue a few times I decided to turn it into a positive. After all, I was doing what I wanted, and I was having a good time doing it. So now I have turned the "B" word into *blessed*! And I really am.



I am *blessed* to be in touch with friends more often. Now I can write leisurely, homey "old-fashioned" letters or call someone miles away during the day (my long distance plan makes this less expensive).

I am especially *blessed* to spend more quality time with family and friends; and seeing my two grandchildren grow really warms my heart.



It has been a *blessing* getting back in touch with nature, spending time in the garden, and going fishing—even if my catch so far wouldn't feed me for a day!

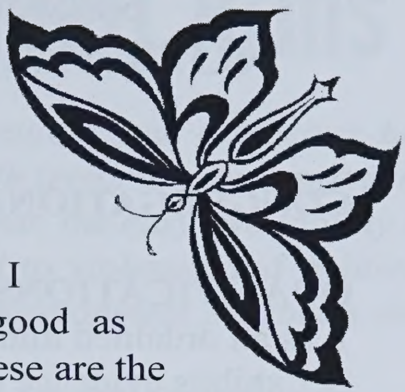
I am *blessed* to have the health and stamina to enjoy these years of giving more than receiving because I realize I have everything I need. I can indulge my passion for knitting and crocheting, and already have quite a few home-made gifts tucked away for Christmas and for the church bazaar.

I am *blessed* to be able to do devotional reading, more or less each day. I began to reread the Bible. As I read, I reflect and jot down significant insights and new understandings. I have also joined with a reading group of individuals who want to discuss on a deeper level, issues that impact on their faith.

Now being able to read books for pleasure, I am actually tackling tomes I always wanted to read such as Dante's *Divine Comedy*. I took a ten-week course in painting at my church—water colour, acrylic, and oil—although I don't really think art is my thing!

I have more time to serve in my own church, and to be an elder again, after a long absence. Through the local church and the Kiwanis Club which I joined, I do community service: helping with food and clothing drives, making dolls for young surgical patients in hospital, visiting seniors, and spending time with the mentally challenged.

I am so *blessed* to still be able to "work," even though I don't *have* to. I have been editing a book of Joe Reed's memoirs of Central America for Overseas Ministries, am active in the Word Guild, a group for Christian writers, and doing other writing of my own.



Retirement, I believe, is as good as you make it. These are the years when you can give back to life some of the wonderful things that life has given to you. These are the times when you are called upon, not for your looks or even your skill, but for your wisdom. These are the days to reminisce, to go through all your treasures and memorabilia, to do away with the "if onlys" and to reconcile what your life really is with what you one day imagined it would be.

There were days before I retired when I thought it would be nice to sleep in, to be able to do nothing. Well, now I usually rise earlier than I did before and I rejoice that there is so much ahead of me each day. Truly blessed are those, who retired, are able to put their time, treasure, and talent to good use.

In this new phase of my life, I am *busy*, yes, but more than ever, *blessed*! Indeed, there is life after retirement and it is a *blessing.*

L. June Stevenson retired at the end of June 2004 from the position of editor of Glad Tidings

SYNOD/SYNODICAL OF CENTRAL, NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO AND BERMUDA IS LOOKING FOR A:

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Is an ordained minister of The Presbyterian Church in Canada
2. Exhibits evidence of having a good rapport with people and be able to work in a team ministry.
3. Be self motivating, disciplined, and able to take the initiative to fulfill the requirements of this position. The person shall possess organizational abilities, management skills, and be willing to travel.

AREAS OF MINISTRY

1. Providing ministry in areas including, but not limited to:
   - congregation and presbytery visioning for outreach, which may include research into demographic trends
   - congregational health analysis
   - session/elder leadership development
   - equipping congregations for stewardship education/programming
   - dispute resolution and conflict management
2. Being available for clergy pastoral care
3. Keeping aware of church development trends
4. Offering liaison between the Life and Mission Agency and the congregations and presbyteries of the synod
5. Being a consultant to the Synod Mission Committee

STIPEND will be commensurate with experience.

PLEASE SUBMIT APPLICATIONS BY MAIL TO:

The Reverend Ann Blane
St. David's Presbyterian Church
1300 Danforth Road
Scarborough, Ontario
M1J 3L8
Telephone: (416) 267-7897 E-mail: l.ann.blane@sympatico.ca

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: DECEMBER 31, 2005

Take Action to Control Small Arms

"The proliferation of small arms, and munitions and explosives has also aggravated the violence associated with terrorism and organized crime. Even in societies not beset by civil war, the easy availability of small arms has in many cases contributed to violence and political instability. These, in turn, have damaged development prospects and imperilled human security in every way."

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

"We are in this struggle because of the carnage we see around us and our desire to show compassion towards victims of gun violence. From Mozambique to Montenegro, from Colombia to Kenya, small arms and light weapons have indeed become the weapons of mass destruction of our time. All must act against this carnage to uphold the sanctity of human life."

SÃO PAULO QUER UM BRASIL SEM ARMAS
BRAZILIAN WOMEN WANT GUNS OUT OF THEIR LIVES
MULHER
GUERRA

Baffour Amoa, Chairman, West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA). Excerpted from a presentation given on behalf of the Ecumenical Small Arms Network of the World Council of Churches (WCC) at the UN Biennial Meeting of States, July 2005, New York.

On behalf of the Canadian churches, Project Ploughshares is working to control the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Project Ploughshares has launched a public education campaign to raise awareness about SALW misuse and proliferation globally, and to provide opportunities for individuals and groups to take action in support of efforts to deal with the problems caused by these weapons.

Why this campaign now?

"We need churches to engage in the fight against proliferation of small arms saying. We have a biblical mandate to affirm the fundamental value and dignity of human life."

Karimi Kinoti, Director of The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

According to the Small Arms Survey, there are over 600 million SALW in circulation around the world—that is one for every 10 people on the planet—and over 500,000 people a year are killed by these weapons, or one death every minute. SALW cover a wide range of weapons from pistols, to machine guns and other firearms, grenades, portable anti-tank systems, and mortars.

These weapons intensify armed conflict, inflict extraordinary suffering on people around the globe, and currently fuel more than three dozen ongoing wars. Because SALW are light, and easy to use and maintain, armed groups can and do sadly, use children as fighters.

The problem is not restricted to war zones. Amnesty International has documented persistent serious human rights violations, such as unlawful killings, abduction, rape, and torture by state security forces in one-third of all countries. The easy availability of SALW fuels violent crime and makes disputes and domestic violence more lethal. Many of the weapons and ammunition used to commit such crimes are obtained through legal international arms transfers—arms transfers that must be better regulated or stopped.

Ultimately, states are responsible for controlling arms both within their borders through national legislation and by ensuring that export regulations respect international human rights and humanitarian law. Currently, there are no global agreements that effectively control the proliferation and misuse of small arms. The lack of control at the international level over the export and transfer of arms, as well as at the national level over the production, sale and use of arms, has an unacceptable human cost.

A far-reaching international Programme of Action was agreed to at a 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms, but implementation is lagging due to insufficient funding and a lack of political will to undertake the changes that all States agreed were necessary. Public pressure is essential to encourage governments to act, and to ensure a constructive outcome to the forthcoming UN Small Arms Review Conference in 2006. There has never been a better time for civil society and activist governments to forge an alliance to tackle this problem head on.

From now until July 2006, we have a unique opportunity to raise awareness and speak out about the grave humanitarian suffering caused by small arms proliferation and misuse.

The Ploughshares campaign calls on Canadians to take actions that will encourage greater government commitment to control small arms and deal with the underlying causes that make people take up arms. Action by churches, and community groups, can strengthen our shared commitment to the pursuit of justice, peace, and security without resort to the use of weapons.

Join with us to restore the security and well-being of people in gun-affected regions.

Campaign materials and additional resources are available on the Project Ploughshares web site www.ploughshares.ca. For further information about how to use the materials contact smallarms@ploughshares.ca, or Lynne Griffiths-Fulton at (519) 888-6541, ext 703.

PARABLES

by
Jim
Phillips

Parable	Matthew	Mark	Luke
Dragnet	13:47–50		
Fig Tree	24:32–44	13:28–32	21:29–33
Great Supper			14:16–24
Hidden Treasure	13:44		
House on Rock	7:24–27		6:47–49
Leaven	13:33		13:20
Lost Sheep	18:12–14		15:3–7
Mustard Seed	13:31	4:30–32	13:18
Pounds			19:11–27
Prodigal Son			15:11–32
Rich Fool			12:16–21
Rich Man (and Lazarus			16:19–31
Sower	13:3–23	4:2–20	8:4–15
Talents	25:14–30		
Tares	13:24–30		
Two Sons	21:28–32		

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Report from the National Council of Women of Canada's Annual General Meeting

The National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) held its 112th annual meeting from June 1–6, 2005 in Montreal. The Women's Missionary Society (WMS) has been a federated member of the NCWC since the early years of the Council and for the last few years I have had the privilege of representing the WMS at these meetings.

NCWC is a national, non-partisan federation of voluntary organizations and it works to improve conditions of life for women and their families through education and advocacy. NCWC policy is developed through a grass roots process of consultation and debate and, by its annual brief, is able to present a strong voice to the Canadian government on issues of concern to its members. The Council also has membership in the International Council of Women (which represents National Councils in more than 70 countries) and has accreditation to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It provides a valuable communications network.

This year's brief to the Federal government, which will be presented in November, will reflect the results of the deliberations at the annual meeting on the resolutions submitted by various local and provincial councils as well as individual convenors and federated members. This year's issues included:

- a resolution that families requesting social assistance should not have monies in a Registered Education Savings Plan counted as an asset;
- that Aboriginal communities be allowed to provide correctional services, long-term supervision, and/or parole to federally sentenced Aboriginal women and that financial resources be provided to communities wishing to undertake the responsibility of assisting in their reintegration into the community;
- a need for inclusive wording for the

Canadian National Anthem;
- that Canada support the United Nations HIV/Aids Program goals by increasing its contribution to help reach the $10 billion annual funding required to administer the HIV/ AIDS prevention and treatment program.

Like many volunteer organizations, the NCWC has concerns for its financial future. Despite the current "Celebrating Women" art show, which is being featured in various major cities across Canada this year and from which Council receives funds from sales, the Council continues to dip into its capital funds to cover operating costs. It receives no funds from any level of government. As more of the members retire from the workforce, are on fixed incomes, and cannot bear the costs involved, Council finds it impossible to finance knowledgeable individual members to participate in the various meetings and consultations with federal departments and agencies to which the Council is invited. To address this, the Council passed a resolution urging the Government of Canada to routinely make provision for travel and accommodation for all Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representatives when issuing invitations to participate in consultations and meetings. It remains to be seen whether this will receive sympathetic acceptance.

As always there was time for meeting and greeting old friends and making new ones. The opening reception was hosted by the City of Montreal in the magnificent Main Hall, with the Quebec Lieutenant Governor, Madame Lise Thibeau, as the guest speaker. Also present was Fatima Houda-Pepin, who spoke of the recently passed law rejecting the recognition of Sharia Law in Quebec. The annual banquet, which was presented this year as a dinner theatre, took place in the venerable Hélène de Champlain restaurant on Île Ste Hélène, the site of Expo '67. At the Saturday NCWC Development Organization (NCWCDO) dinner and annual general meeting, our own the Rev. Glynnis Williams spoke of her work, supported by Canada Ministries and the WMS, with Action Réfugiés Montréal. The NCWCDO was formed as an arms-length organization some years ago to collect and distribute funds to women's groups, both in Canada and overseas, and to work to improve the lives of women and their families

Again this year I want to thank the WMS Council for giving me this opportunity to represent the Society. It is an accepted fact these days that much can be accomplished by coalitions rather than by every organization working on its own—this is clearly demonstrated within the National Council of Women. The theme for this year's meeting was *Together We Can Succeed/Ensemble Nous Pouvons Réussir!*

Druse Bryan

Invitation

Alone, sitting, alone alone, very much alone now;
knee-deep in swill of depravation,
dobbed with disgust.
No cry, no beckoning.
It is a whispered life,
and the city's summation:
little.

Jesus has already drawn near.
"Precious life," he calls her,
a tender closeness
to this gravel-in-the-rough, or cast-away gem,
you decide,
you, that race by.

Her life-corroded face bends, pitted.
Harsh reality.
(But porcelain complexions are of little use.)
Crevices must cut deep enough
for Truth to get stuck in.
So, tenderly, Jesus adheres,
and waits, and waits more…ready to bless,
to well up and bless by—and through—this face.

She and he sit and rock
in concert on a porch
and wait still
for open eyes and hearts
offering
unutterable mystery...
bent human, and bending Divine,
swaying together in expectancy.

Rodger Hunter

Rodger is Chaplain of Boarding Homes Ministry. This ministry links church members with the residents of area boarding homes to form vital and life-enhancing Christian community. To learn more about Boarding Homes Ministry, contact Rodger at Station Q, Box 713, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 2N5; by phone (416) 992-4987; or by e-mail: bhmin@sympatico.ca.

Advent Worship Service 2005

by Kim Arnold

Theme:

Let your group know beforehand that the four themes of Advent will be celebrated: *hope, peace, joy,* and *love*. You will need four candles in holders set on a table in the middle of the room, one Leader, and one Assistant. For each theme, the Leader asks for the following from the group: real-life contributions in terms of names of people, issues at hand, and matters to be celebrated and noted that can be read aloud at the appropriate times during the service. The Leader will choose one example to read aloud for each of the four themes at the time of the candle lighting.

Call to Worship:

Leader: As we gather together to worship God, let us take some quiet, thoughtful time to explore the meaning of the Advent season. Advent *means a time of waiting*. Waiting for Jesus' birth. This shining light in our lives signals the beginning of the church year for all Christians. It is a perfect time to focus on four key aspects of our faith: *hope, peace, joy,* and *love*. We know that these can only live in the light—they languish in the darkness.

Offer a brief time of silence to consider each of these themes.

Prayer of Approach:

All: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for this season of expectation and renewal. We give thanks to you for the cooler days of fall, clear star-lit evenings, the

colourful leaves, the plentiful harvests, and also for the warm blanket of snow that is to come as it will protect and nourish the earth.

As God's followers, we hear and understand God's declared promise of eternal salvation that points to the One to come—Emmanuel—God with us! Amen.

Hymn: "Hope is a star" (The Book of Praise #119)

Scripture: Leader or a volunteer: John 1:1–9 (NRSV)

Leader: We light candles this day to underline how hope, peace, joy, and love shine bright in our lives. Using candles at the time of Advent also reminds us of that special bright star in the East that guided the shepherds and wise men to the stable of Jesus' birth.

Candle #1: The Leader reads one example of hope and says, "We light the candle of hope." The Assistant lights the first candle.

All: We come together this day and in this place of God to share in the excitement of the celebration of Jesus' birth. We acknowledge that without Him we would be bereft of the possibility of the full feeling and true promise of what hope can mean in our lives, in our church building, in our neighborhood, in our city, and out into the world. As stewards of Christ, this is our hope for all people.

Hymn: "In the bulb there is a flower" (The Book of Praise #674)

Scripture: Leader or a volunteer: Matthew 5: 3–9 (NRSV)

Candle #2: The Leader reads one example of peace and says, "We light the candle of peace." The Assistant lights the second candle.

All: Gracious God, in our world where a way of peace is not always apparent, and in the name of justice and righteousness, we ask that you support and guide our local politicians and our world leaders that they may be enabled to work effectively towards paving a path of healing among people; not one that tears us all further apart.

Even as a very young man, Jesus challenged the highly respected rabbis in the temple. He pressed them for a new way to regard people and society. He offered a healing hand in ridding sickness, and in soothing human longings.

Hymn: "People in darkness" (The Book of Praise #124)

Scripture: Leader or a volunteer: Psalm 65: 9–13 (NRSV)

Candle #3: The Leader reads one example of joy and says, "We light the candle of joy." The Assistant lights the third candle.

All: Ours is the perpetual light of Christ. One that, despite the storms of life, will not be snuffed out nor will it be dimmed. Let us be joyful and enjoy much musical laughter. Let us journey together; all the while rejoicing in the spirit. As God's followers we will continue to work together—walking in the light—always seeking a right path out of darkness.

Scripture: Leader or a volunteer: Colossians 3: 12–14 (NRSV)

Candle #4: The Leader reads one example of love and says, "We light the candle of love." The Assistant lights the fourth candle.

All: Lord God, may our lives be filled with thoughtfulness for one another, the genuine pleasure that comes with sharing all that we are able, and with love that has the strength to take on the highs and lows of life. Ours is a strong faith, founded in God's love for Jesus. We lay ourselves before you, ever aware of our human frailties, but knowing that your love for us abides. It carries us through our lives confident in the knowledge that we never walk alone.

Hymn: "Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel" (The Book of Praise #122, verses 1, 3, 5, 7)

Commission:

(Spoken by the Leader while all those present hold hands in a circle around the four lit candles.)

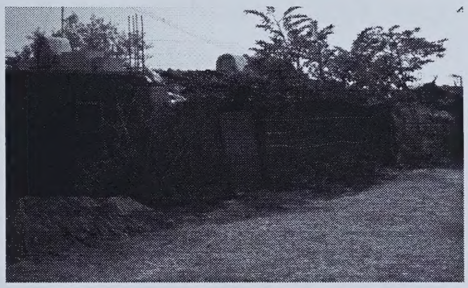
Just as God blessed us with his son Jesus, let us bless one another in our daily lives. May we now go from this place with renewed purpose to serve God as active stewards—sharing the hope, joy, peace, and love of our faith with our bothers and sisters wherever we travel. God be with us.

Kim Arnold is the Archivist of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC). This past September, Kim celebrated her 25th anniversary with the PCC.

Forward in Faith

In 2004, a gift from the Women's Missionary Society (WMS) Undesignated Legacies was sent to Jobat Christian School for the repair of the security fence. These pictures will show you the "before" and "after." The children and the school property will now be protected with the new fence.

Funds were approved at the 2005 Council Meeting for the rebuilding of the Jobat Christian School. The new school will be dedicated to the memory of Miss Mabel Booth, a diaconal minister who served for many years as the Children's Work Secretary for the WMS. The construction of the new school has begun. It was necessary to await the rainy season to dig into the ground and lay the foundation. The soil is clay-like and very hard and dry in the hot season. With the new enlarged facilities, permission is being sought from the government to add grades 11 and 12. If granted, children who did not have an opportunity to complete these higher grades will now be able to do so.



The Jobat Christian School scholarship program is receiving encouraging support from local WMS groups. Each group was invited to contribute $35.00 for two years.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of the children in Jobat, India.

Wilma Welsh, Treasurer

Circulation News

Katherine Allen

A pamphlet on promotional ideas was included in the summer mailing to *Glad Tidings* secretaries. Ask the *Glad Tidings* secretary if you could read it and then perhaps help to promote the magazine to your friends, family, and congregation.

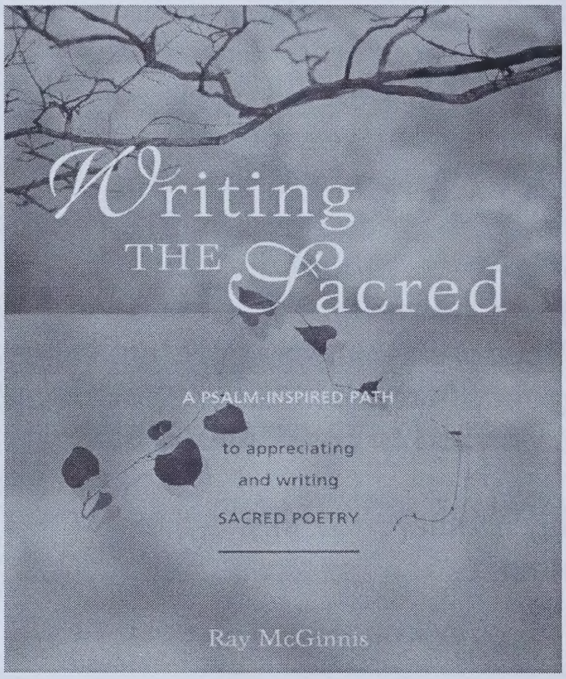
This mailing also included a list of subscribers to *Glad Tidings* magazine. Please return this list to the office by November 1 in order that changes may be made for the January/February 2006 issue. It also saves us time and money in not having to follow up later.

If the subscription list has already been returned to the office, then the *Glad Tidings* secretary can forward any additional subscribers directly to the *Glad Tidings* circulation department.

Reviews

Writing the Sacred: A Psalm-Inspired Path to Appreciating and Writing Sacred Poetry **by Ray McGinnis, Northstone Publishing, $26.25**

Do not let the title scare you away from a great book. It is 224 pages long, but the first 125 pages are the best! *Writing the Sacred* is user-friendly and if I can follow and use it right away, then anyone can.



If you love music or poetry, then this book is for you, your church, or WMS group. Does your group need a new activity to learn more about God? Would you love to write poetry to God? *Writing the Sacred* makes it easy with lots of examples and exercises to get you started. For inspiration, try having members of your group take turns reading aloud, especially Chapters 1–7.

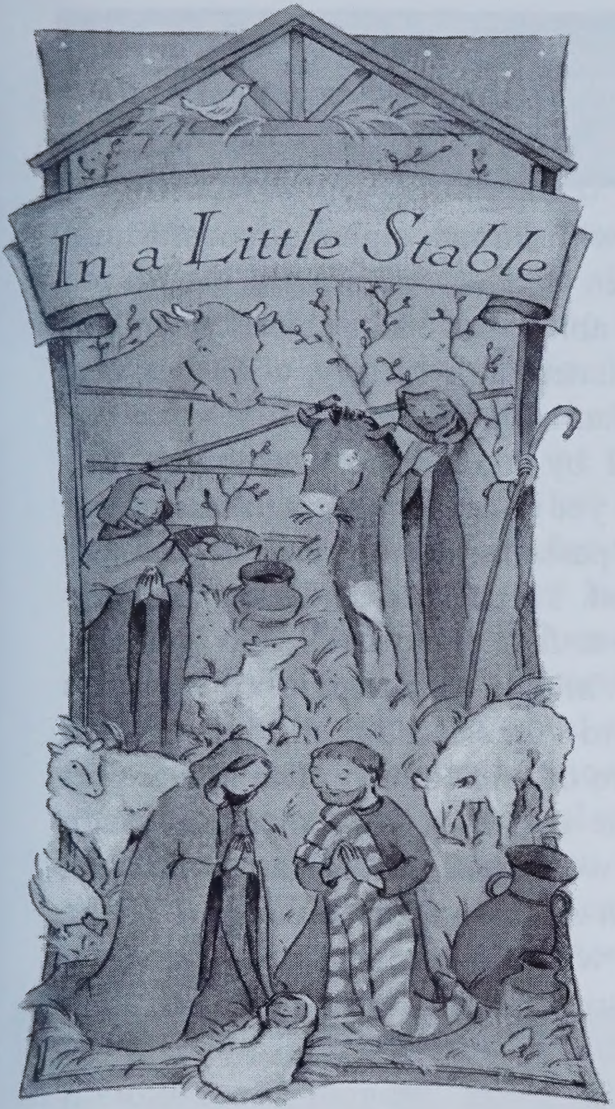
Writing the Sacred could also be used by prayer and bible study groups. It gives new insight into the Lord by inviting readers to ask questions and to rely on the Holy Spirit to give the answers. What I really love about this book is that it gives us permission to write, and ideas on how to know ourselves and God better. The endnotes of each chapter point the way to other great books too!

Seventy-five percent of the examples in the book come from the Psalms. The Psalms direct us to talk to the Lord daily, and *Writing the Sacred* would be a great addition to your *Daily Devotional* from the The Presbyterian Church in Canada. In the chapter entitled "Psalms to Creation," McGinnis invites us to use our five God-given senses to write our own Psalm to God.

One of the shortcomings of this book is the lack of pictures! I pray that in future editions Mr. McGinnis will add pictures from nature. Also, I would have preferred that the writer omit writings from secular books.

I believe that *Writing the Sacred* was written for songwriters, people who love poetry, and anyone who loves the Psalms. It is wonderful to express our praise and laments to God in a different way, and to learn about God in the process. What do you need to tell the Lord today?

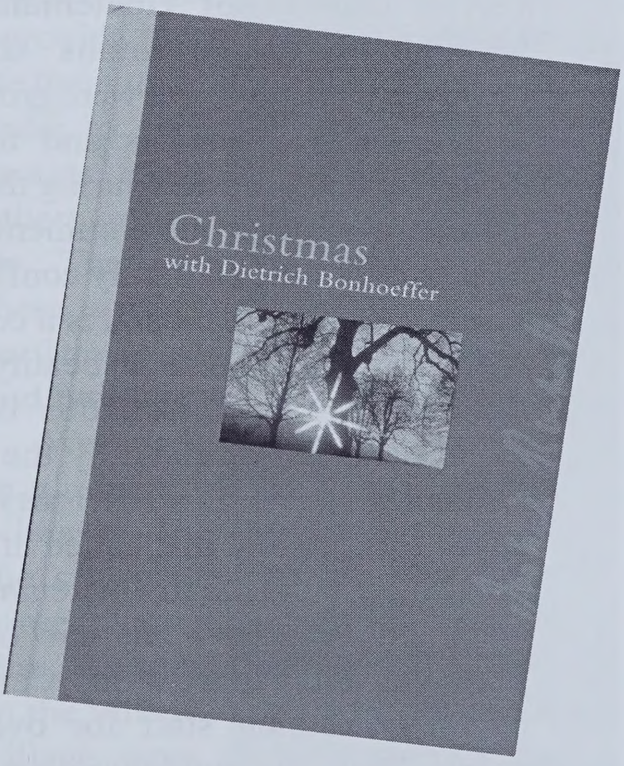
Jo Ann Sutherland



***Sacred Songs of Christmas: A Family Treasury*, Includes Voices of Children CD, Concordia Publishing House $27.50**

Music may be appreciated at Christmas, more than at any other time of the year. This treasure fosters that enjoyment with the words, music, and stories behind 19 hymns. Taking time with the family to enjoy the poems, scripture passages, and artwork is a great way to fight the pull to do more, buy more, or rush around more. The beautiful presentation of book and CD is certain to become part of Christmas traditions for years to come.

(left) Illustration from *Sacred Songs of Christmas*



***Christmas with Dietrich Bonhoeffer* edited by Manford Weber, Augsburg Books $16.50**

The short profound meditations, excerpted from a variety of Bonhoeffer's inspirational writings, provide touchstones to the magnitude of Christmas. Eloquent and steeped in the wonder and marvel of Christ's birth, these gifts of expression are deep-felt and moving. It is a thoughtful and tasteful gift book.

Susan Clarke

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Mission in Action

Cynthia Carter
Guatemala
Youth in Mission

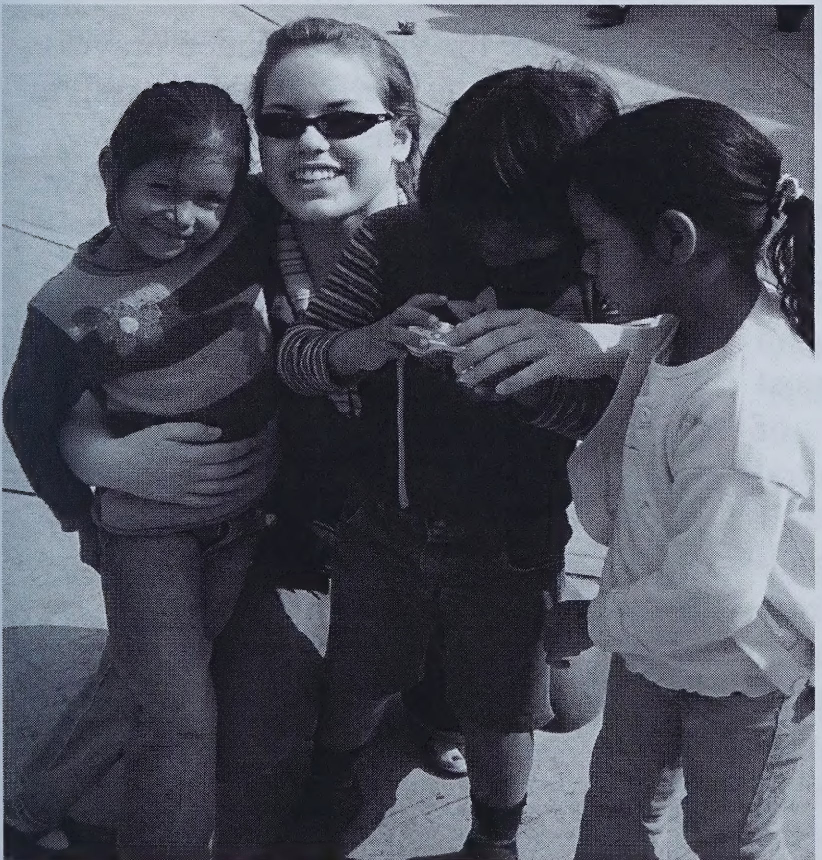
As I stepped off the plane into the sweltering humidity of Guatemala City, the realization that I had just entered a completely foreign world set in. Since my knowledge of the country was limited, I felt vulnerable being exposed to this different culture. Over the next 17 days, my mission group and I would come to a certain understanding of the beautiful yet controversial country of Guatemala. We learned of the triumphs of the Guatemalan people, and were grounded by their daily struggles and misfortunes. On one occasion during the trip, a woman in our group commented on how Guatemala had a truly conflicting identity. On the surface, it is a country with immense natural beauty and flowing highlands. Yet, this breathtaking land is restrained by the bitter problems it faces as a repercussion of a 36-year civil war that ended in 1996.

During our time in Guatemala, we were led by Ken Kim, one of The Presbyterian Church in Canada's overseas mission staff for over ten years. With his guidance, we were able to gain insight into the true identity of the Guatemalan people. We were pleased to meet his wife, Kennis and four children, Noah, Clara, Sophie, and Gabriel. Our group met with human rights advocates and church leaders. Through them, we were able to have a basic understanding of Guatemala's history, civil war, and its aftermath. The toils and tribulations faced by Guatemala during the war have yet to cease, although nine years have passed since the peace accord was signed. The people of Guatemala continue to face exploitation and violence.

While in Guatemala City, I was able to witness the reality of the dual nature of this country. The newer part of the city was very modern, much like we would see in large cities in North America. The older part of the city, where the majority of our time was spent, was made up of deteriorating buildings and streets littered with garbage, and pungent air pollution was evident.

Our group spent several days at the Francisco Coll School, which is situated in the municipal dump in Guatemala City. We spent two days painting the interior of the school. During our final day at the school, the students put on a presentation to show us their gratitude for our work. The excitement of the children was overwhelming. Personally, the children were the most touching part of the trip. They demonstrated great affection towards us, and were very welcoming. We toured the class rooms, and the area of the dump where the people —including the students— lived. Our meeting with the director of the school, Sister Alba, informed us of the troubled lives these children led.

Many of the facts she gave us regarding these children, who all live within the confines of the dump itself, proved to be very disturbing. While the parents scavenge through the dump for recyclable items that can be traded for money, the children are left alone to wander around and fend for themselves, resulting in a severe lack of personal hygiene. The influence of drugs and violence is very prominent, with neighbourhood fights and shootouts being a regular occurrence. The children who come to the school require more than just formal education. They need a place where they can be exposed to love and support, as well as learn proper hygiene. The school also attempts to reach their students at a deeper level, through faith and an emphasis on self-esteem and personal growth. With the support of external funds (since the government does not fund the school), Sister Alba and her co-workers make this oasis of love a reality for the children.



After several days in Guatemala City, we made our way through the beautiful countryside to the city of Quetzeltenango. We went to two rural Mayan communities to visit women's groups supported by the Fraternidad de Presbyteriales Mayas. The Fraternidad supports these women's groups in a number of ways. Primarily, they provide the groups with loans to enable them to produce goods to sell in order to generate money. Several groups focus on weaving, while others grow potatoes or raise cattle. The Fraternidad also offers these women the opportunity to participate in workshops for training and building self-esteem.

We attended a church service in a remote Mayan village, called Nimasac. The service was held on the site where we did our work project: laying a church foundation. We spent five days of our trip in the village. The members of the village were all very welcoming and eager to meet us. They truly went out of their way to make our stay memorable.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to visit Guatemala. All

the people we met greeted us into their country with open arms.

Cynthia Carter is a second-year university student who attends Knox Church in Kouchibouguac, New Brunswick. In May, she was part of a Youth in Mission group who along with five people from a congregation in Thunder Bay, Ontario visited Guatemala. She is grateful to the WMS for the financial assistance provided through the Isabella Brown Memorial Fund.

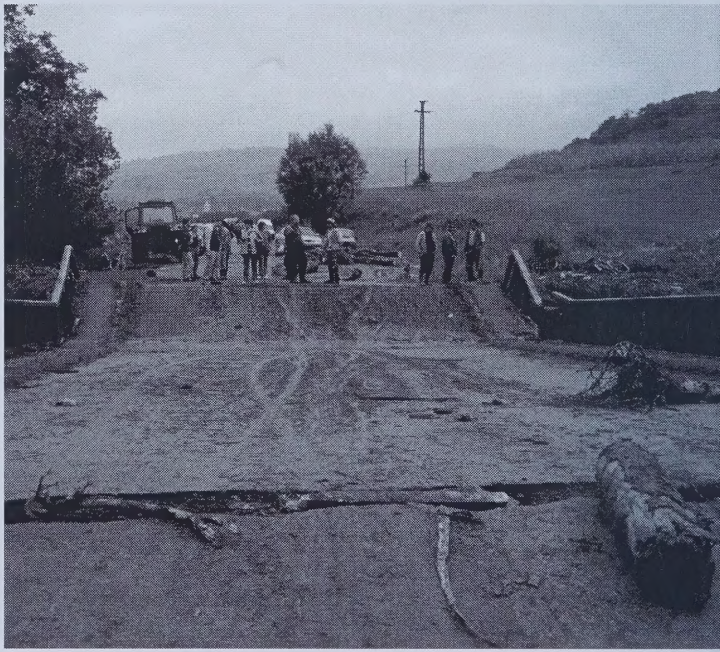
Brian Johnston
Cluj, Romania

There has been severe flooding in Romania this summer. The area most severely hit is near the city of Sigisoara in a Hungarian area of central Transylvania. I had a close call as I was visiting this area when the flooding happened. I was coming back from a short excursion; I stopped the car at one point due to visibility and then continued, thinking the worst was over. One kilometre before entering the village I just made it through the last major accumulation—certainly the deepest water I have gone through with my car.

Half an hour later the bridge snapped and the rail line was washed out, which will severely limit transportation in that area. As far as I know none of my close friends have been severely affected, but many crops have been washed away. I was able to take some photos.

We ask for your continued prayers for the people here in the massive clean-up operations that are underway.

Sincerely, Brian



Summer Mission Experience
by Katherine Allen

The following interview with Amber Shultis tells of her experiences working with aboriginal people at Mistawasis Reserve in Saskatchewan (July 9–16) and at Eagle Bay Camp in Manitoba (July 16–22).

1. What inspired you to go on a mission trip?

I was inspired to go on these mission trips through my involvement with youth groups and last year I decided to be an aboriginal outreach worker. When I heard that YIM (Youth in Mission) works with aboriginal people, it seemed like a good idea to connect with them. It also helped to have my grandma working at the church office and other connections with national staff, such as Reuben St. Louis (YIM Director) and Colleen Wood (Synod Youth Consultant). So, along with Dave and Anne Phillips from Uxbridge, who work at the national church office, I went to Mistawasis.

Rob Kennedy from Knox Church on Spadina Avenue in Toronto found out that I was interested in going on a mission trip. He told me that the church was planning on going to Eagle Bay Camp and he asked me whether I would be interested in going if there was space. I said, "Yes!"

The dates of both mission trips were back to back, so I flew from Saskatchewan to Manitoba on July 16. A Women's Missionary Society member, Ina Borger, met me at the Winnipeg Airport and took care of my needs until I connected with the group from Knox Church.

2. Describe briefly what you did at both places.

At Mistawasis, we ran a Vacation Bible School (VBS). In the morning, we led Bible studies on the stories of Lydia and how Saul's name was changed to Paul. We played games that related to these stories; for instance, we did a demonstration of how Paul went over the wall.

Following lunch, we played group games while some people cleaned up. In the afternoon, the groups did a rotation of crafts, Bible studies, and games. For instance, the younger ones (7 and under) started with crafts, the middle age group (7–9) played games,

Overseas Staff Birthdays

January

10 - David Pandy-Szekeres, Hungary

February

21 - Bill McKelvie, Pakistan

March

9 - Rebecca Sherbino, Malawi
12 - Ling Schwarz, Nepal
15 - Brenda Patterson, El Salvador
21 - Joel Sherbino, Malawi
31 - Michael Tai, Taiwan

and the oldest group (10 and up) did Bible studies.

When the VBS was over each day, the children were driven home by Dave Phillips and Harvey Pechawis.

Eagle Bay Camp was an overnight camp for native kids. The activity groups met four times a day. The activities during the day included horseback riding, canoeing, wall climbing, archery, crafts, mini-golf, and swimming. Swimming was mandatory every day because of the condition of the showers. The age group at the camp was approximately 7–10 years old.

Every evening, we gathered around the campfire, even though it was still daylight. In fact, the daylight lasted until after 10:00 p.m.! It was disappointing that we didn't roast marshmallows, which is always a fun thing to do around a campfire.

3. What were the highlights of each mission trip?

At Mistawasis, the highlight was the people who were so much fun and very friendly. As the community was small most of the people were related to one another.

The highlight of Eagle Bay would be the kids. It was fun getting to know them and working with them as a cabin counsellor and activity leader.

4. What did you do during the evenings at Mistawasis?

In the evening, we did some debriefing of the days events and planning for the next day. We tried out the crafts and the Bible story to make sure they were ready for the morning.

At Mistawasis, I worked mainly with older kids who were close to my age. We got along very well.

The minister at Mistawasis, the Rev. George Yando and his wife Beth Anne were friendly and always willing to help. It was the first time they used the school for the VBS as the church was under renovation.

If I had a choice to return to either Mistawasis or Eagle Bay, I would prefer to return to Mistawasis because of the program and the people.

Thanks to Gateway Church for raising funds for this wonderful experience through their contributions with the jars and the Campership Fund. The Women's Missionary Society of The Presbyterian Church in Canada also provided some money from the Isabella Brown Leadership Development Fund.

Photo: Amber Shultis third from right

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In the Society

Synodical

The Synodical of **Quebec and Eastern Ontario** met at St. Andrew's-Knox in Spencerville, Ontario on April 22–23. Synodical President Margaret Reynolds focused the two-day meeting around the theme, *Justice-Not Just Us*. There were two guest speakers: Wilma Welsh, who provided groups with an overview of the work being done in international mission for The Presbyterian Church, and Eileen Woloshyn, a lawyer from Kingston, who spoke about her work on restorative justice in the prison community. Friday evening closed with a communion service lead by the Rev. Ian MacLean. Over the two days, special music was provided by St. Paul's (Caintown) Choir and by the Rev. Howard and his family from Iroquois, Ontario. Literature Secretary Catherine Blatch set up a large display of books currently being sold in The Book Room and gave reviews of several books during the business meeting. Knitted items were also collected from the groups. As well, Mary Nichol, a retired missionary who served in India for over 27 years and in Nepal for over seven, was introduced to Synodical newcomers.

Jo Mott

Presbyterial

The **Barrie** Presbyterial held its 91st annual meeting on May 17, 2005, at Essa Road Church in Barrie, Ontario. The theme of the meeting was *May We Overflow With Hope By the Power of the Holy Spirit*. June Campbell, Presbyterial president, welcomed everyone and the Port Carling WMS presented devotions based on the theme.

The Rev. Keith Boyer, Synod Mission Consultant, and the Rev. Lynda Reid, Synod Education Consultant, conveyed greetings and reports from Synod. The Rev. Boyer led a mini workshop, "Sizing Up Your

Congregation: Growth and Transition."

Jill Pardy presented a memorial service and Susan Patton led in the prayers for missions. Evelyn Horne gave recognition to the outgoing officers and Jean Jones presented the nominating committee's report. The Rev. Sarah Kim, Executive Director, led in the election and installation of officers.

Literature Secretary Dorothy Ruddell reviewed several books available from the book table. June Campbell led a sing-along. Pianists for the day were Irene Boyes and Julia Mills. In the evening, June Campbell introduced the speakers, the Rev. Sarah Kim and WMS President Margaret McGillivray. In April, both women travelled to China on the invitation of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of China. Margaret also set up a display table and showed some slides. Many questions followed the presentation. June Campbell thanked the guest speakers and Marie Schandlen gave courtesies. The Rev. Tom Cunningham, minister at Essa Road, closed the meeting with prayer and the Benediction.

Jill Pardy

Let's Go Camping! was the theme of the **Huron-Perth** Presbyterial spring rally held at Camp Kintail. Vice-president Bernice Richards welcomed 69 women to the rally. Jan MacGinnis gave a prayer for a member, who was having surgery. Camp Kintail's Executive Director, the Rev. Gwen Brown, and Director Graham Gould welcomed everyone and spoke about the camp's layout and activities.

President Ina McMillan, along with three other members, relayed the highlights of the Southwestern Ontario Synodical meeting held in Woodstock, Ontario in April.

Lois Horne, literature secretary, gave a book review and had several books and supplies for sale.

The Rev. Brown introduced her staff who entertained everyone with a lively sing-along. Groups were formed to tour the campsite, go down to the beach, or make a craft. After the turkey dinner, Vespers, and courtesy remarks, Bernice Richards closed the meeting with prayer.

Bessie Thompson

The **Kamloops** Presbyterial annual meeting was held at the Retreat Centre in Cache Creek, British Columbia on May 17–18 with 20 members present. Kamloops Presbyterial now covers the entire interior of British Columbia. A group from Cranbrook in the Kootenays has just joined the groups from Prince George in the North, through Kamloops, Vernon-Armstrong, and Penticton in the Thompson-Okanagan region. It might take a day's drive to attend a Presbyterial annual meeting, so it was encouraging to see so many people make the effort. This year's meeting was held under the leadership of the Kamloops group, with Iris Orton as the chairperson. Kay Mori, Synodical vice-president, brought greetings and spoke on the recent Council meetings. Educational Ministries Co-ordinator Kathy Ball gave a report on her work and led the women in a series of exercises.

The theme of the meeting was *Making a Difference*. Linda Inglis spoke about her experiences in Malawi, focusing on her work with AIDS orphans. Linda and her husband, the Rev. Glenn Inglis, have spent 13 years doing mission work. Linda brought a number of artifacts with her, and the women were invited to dress in Malawian clothes. As well, she presented a slide show and led the groups in song to the accompaniment of her African drum.

One feature of the meeting was a time of prayer for individual missionaries. Small subgroups considered the information provided on a specific missionary and then composed and led a public prayer for that individual. In addition, the Kamloops group organized a skit called: "A Difference in Their Lives," taken from a l983 *Glad Tidings* article, which looked at the way contact with Jesus made a difference in the lives of several biblical women.

The meeting concluded with a communion service led by the Rev. Betty Walsh, assisted by Kathy Ball. The Rev. Walsh is now a resident of Kelowna in the Okanagan area and has offered to try to organize a new WMS group in that city.

Gerry Bergeron

The **Lanark and Renfrew** Presbyterial held its spring meeting on April 25 at Knox Church in Westport, Ontario. Presbyterial President Jo Mott welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer. Lottie Sutherland brought greetings from Westport and Eunice Schrader led us in a lively hymn-sing. Business included an update on the Jobat School project and camping sponsorship. Synodical delegates gave their reports on the Synodical meeting that took place in Spencerville on April 22–23.

Using the theme *Justice-Not Just Us*, the Rev. Marilyn Savage encouraged everyone by affirming that the WMS raises awareness of mission outreach projects to our churches. Our relationship to God is an indicator of our passion for justice.

After a delicious lunch prepared by our Westport hostesses, we heard from our guest speaker, the Rev. Lyman Coleman, a retired Lt. Colonel, who served in the Canadian Military for 28 years as a senior Protestant Army Chaplain. He has just published his first historical fiction book *In This Sign*, which is about a Canadian Chaplain who served during World War II. He spoke to us about some of the true events in his book. We were all greatly moved by his words, and left the meeting feeling grateful for the people of faith who support our military.

Judie Ault

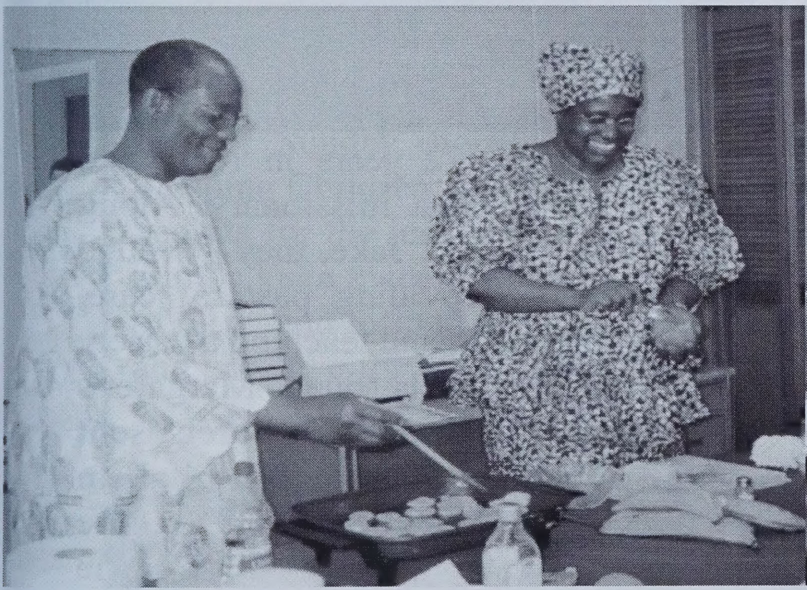
The **Niagara** Presbyterial held its 54th annual meeting at Kirk-on-the-Hill on a very stormy day. *Go and Tell* was the theme of the meeting and Betty Crogie, president, welcomed everyone. The Rev. Susanne Rescorl conducted an inspiring service of worship and communion. Jeanette Mullin reported that we had exceeded our 2004 objective by $1,470, and the Rev. Anne Yee-Hibbs led the Bible study. Alexis Dimson spoke on WMS program and marketing, and Carol Kim installed the new officers.

The spring meeting was held at Chippawa Church. President Gail Opie conducted the meeting and Bonnie Roland led in worship. Dorothy Henderson, named Educator of the Year, spoke on young adults' views of growing up in the Church.

Annabelle Ovens

Refugees and Strangers was the theme for the spring rally of the **Sarnia** Presbyterial hosted by Laurel Lea-St. Matthew's Church in Sarnia. The Rev. Joyce Hodgson welcomed WMS members and said grace before everyone enjoyed the catered lunch. Anna Jean McCoskery gave a book review. Suzanne Mater and Marilyn Shaw led a sing-along.

Suzanne Mater was the narrator of a drama entitled "Refugees and Strangers." With all of the participants in costume, the presentation proved to be very thought provoking as well as informative. The presentation was adapted from material provided by KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. Participants enacted



(left) The Niagara Presbyterial had a mission day at Scottlea Church in St. Catharines, Ontario. Learning centres on food, crafts, music, and stories from the study on Ghana were enjoyed by the children. Two congregation members, Vera Prosper and Gus Semenya (formerly from Ghana), cooked plantain, papaya, and mango. The children served the fried plantain to the adults.

(right) Some of the children gathered for music and tried out some of their instruments. Left to right: William Smallman, Rose Markarian, Sarah Rowland, and Madison Kraetz.

the plights that the biblical characters Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, Daniel, and Mary faced when they immigrated to other regions. Modern day refugees from Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, Pakistan, and Columbia were then portrayed, depicting the problems and frustrations they face when immigrating into Canada.

Marilyn Shaw

On May 18, **East Toronto** Presbyterial met at the Presbyterian Museum at St. John's Church in Toronto. The Rev. Dr. John A. Johnston met with us for a brief talk about the museum, and then we went in three different groups to view the items on display there. My one regret about the whole evening is that we didn't have enough time—there was so much to see!

Following our tour, we returned to the Sanctuary where the Rev. Dr. Johnston conducted an old-fashioned communion service, which was very meaningful. Hugh McKellar was our presenter and did a marvelous job of guiding us. Also, our thanks to Al Clarkson who acted as one of our guides and to the women of St. John's for the goodies they served following the tour. If you haven't seen the museum, I highly recommend it.

Doris McAndless

Local

The Jean Brown McClenaghan Evening group of St. Andrew's Church in Corunna, Ontario presented Debra Wellington with a life membership during the Mission Awareness Sunday service. Debra has been a member for 15 years and secretary for at least 12 years.

The WMS Thankoffering and Mission Awareness Sunday service was held on May 15 at Chippawa Church in Niagara Falls. The Rev. Doug Schonberg conducted the service and Annabelle Ovens introduced the speaker, Margaret Vanderzweerde. Margaret, a retired diaconal minister, spoke on her 12 years in India and Nepal as an area missionary. Along with her husband, Jake, they travelled extensively, providing pastoral care, assessing needs, and teaching a variety of skills. Previously (due to Margaret's feedback), Chippawa Church sent money to St. Luke's Hospital in Hiranpur, India, which resulted in the hospital wing being renamed the Chippawa wing.

Members and affiliates joined for the sixth year to provide the service on Mission Awareness Sunday at St. Andrew's Church in Penticton, British

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New Adventures & New Friends: CGIT Celebrates 90th Anniversary

On June 24–26, approximately 150 Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) leaders, girls, alumnae, and executive participated in the seventh Ontario Jamboree to celebrate CGIT's 90th anniversary. Since 1975, jamborees have been held every five years in various locations of the province. This event was wonderful in all aspects from the opening campfire, great weather, new adventures and new friends, to the closing ceremony. New adventures for participants were field games, hiking, crafts, archery, swimming, singing, compass orienteering, and drumming and dancing in the Tribal Thunder Drum Circle. New friendships were formed among groups across Ontario and guests from the West and East—three leaders and six girls from Saskatchewan; one leader and two girls from New Brunswick; one girl from Nova Scotia; and one girl from Prince Edward Island. Each morning opened with a morning watch—a time alone with God—and each evening closed with Vespers and a campfire.

This fantastic weekend took place at the Lambton United Church Centre and even more fantastic was the welcoming women of the Lambton/Sarnia CGIT Workboard, who presented each of us with a handmade tote bag filled with little treasures. On Saturday night, we dressed in our CGIT middy and explorer shirt to have our special celebrations and official picture taken. Six people were chosen to cut the cake and 90 blue-and-white balloons gave the area a very festive flair.

Our Sunday morning, the worship collection of $540 was donated to Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW), and was enough to purchase 18 bedkits for the less fortunate. As we left the worship service, we sang: "Siya humba kuka kweni kwencos—We are marching (singing, praying) in the light of God" and formed a huge circle of friendship before singing our closing taps and goodbye for the wonderful weekend.

Carolyn Reid

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Columbia. Each year, this servcice is received with enthusiasm by the congregation. From taking part in every aspect of the service to serving coffee and baked goods, our women were inspired and very busy.

The usual sermon time was used to portray the mission work being done in the Caribou region.

The following people helped with the Mission Awareness Sunday service: Margaret Sisley, Helen Beaugrand, Grace Bragg, Audrey Nicol, Inez Pringle, Marlene Lane, Cicely Harris, Eleanor Peterson, Joanne O'Kell, Carroll Moreland, and Cindy Lees. The organist, pianist, and choir also provided a wonderful anthem and helped with the hymns.

WMS Mission Circle

St. Paul's Church, Simcoe, Ontario

Nowadays, we may feel we have a small membership—for the last few years we have had about a dozen members—but we try to keep in mind that when our circle was first formed, we were only seven. Mrs. W. J. Dey, the wife of our minister at the time the Rev. Dr. W. J. Dey, was greatly interested in missionary work. She invited a few young women to a meeting at the manse, and the Young Women's Home Mission Circle was organized on April 20, 1909.

The focus then was on home mission work, especially in Western Canada. Bins were filled with hospital supplies, clothing, rugs, quilts, etc. Later, foreign missions became our interest. In the 1960s, the group's membership increased to 39 women.

The collection at that first meeting in 1909 was 20 cents, and the first financial statement for that year showed total receipts of $17.30. We keep up our offerings respectably these days.

In 1914, the name of the circle was changed to Young Women's Mission Circle, and later to St. Paul's Mission Circle.

Jean Aitken

On June 19, the Morewood WMS presented June Graham, Rebecca McLeod, and Lottie Honti with life membership pins and certificates of recognition.

At the anniversary meeting on Wednesday, June 1, three members received life membership certificates and pins from the Esson, Orillia WMS. Left to right: Dorothy Illingworth, Lois Cullis, and Loreen Walsh

Christ Within the Centre— Northern Congress for Women

May 27-29, 2005, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ontario

June Campbell
President, Barrie Presbyterial

This Congress represents the fruition of a long-standing commitment of the Toronto and Kingston Synodical that an event for women of the North be organized. This promise was made when several Women's Missionary Society (WMS) groups disbanded in the late '80s and early '90s, which resulted in a lack of events for Presbyterian women in the northern regions of the Toronto and Kingston Synodical. The Rev. Lynda Reid, Synod Education Consultant, got us all moving to bring this event to its wonderful actuality. And what a remarkable, truly Spirit-filled weekend it was for 39 women. I am confident that each person's life there was touched in some significant way as we sang, studied, prayed, and laughed together.

The Rev. Margaret Robertson, minister of Elmvale Church in the Presbytery of Barrie and former Program Secretary for the WMS, fully developed the theme, *Christ Within the Centre*, with various exercises. Some remarks from participants who followed an exercise on labyrinths were: "I found an inner peace." "I decided not to come out." "I got lost but ended up back in the centre." and "I came out to the opening of whatever is next."

In another exercise, Margaret illustrated that we experience the One in whom we live as being all around us and within us by keeping our hearts open. This can happen in worship, well-read Scripture, The Lord's Prayer, repetitive words that encompass us, individual prayer, internal silence, journalling, and retreats. An open heart is capable of radical amazement, flows into gratitude, allows compassion and a passion for justice, and feels the pain and suffering of the

world and responds to it. Ephesians 3:16–19 expresses this in practical and wonderful terms. The mystery surrounding this has also been made known by revelation as St. Paul testifies to us.

On Saturday afternoon, Margaret completed her sessions with an exercise in prayer. In groups of eight, we listed our concerns for the world while one person prayed; in groups of four, we listed our concerns for our church and community while one person prayed; and in pairs we held hands and confided personal concerns and prayed for each other. So much was gained through Margaret's teaching, which we accepted with gratitude!

The workshops on Saturday afternoon took us in three different directions. Sandra Beattie and Linda MacLennan from North Bay led a workshop, "Christ Within the Centre of Mission," which focused on their recent trip to Malawi. "Christ Within the Centre of Family" was a workshop led by the Rev. Lynda Reid on how to bring Christ into the centre of family life. Finally, Susan Stott-Hood's workshop, "Centreing Prayer," encouraged us to slow down in a quiet atmosphere and experience personal, meditative, silent prayer. Susan's lesson concluded with the opportunity to share our self-discoveries and prayers for one another in groups of three.

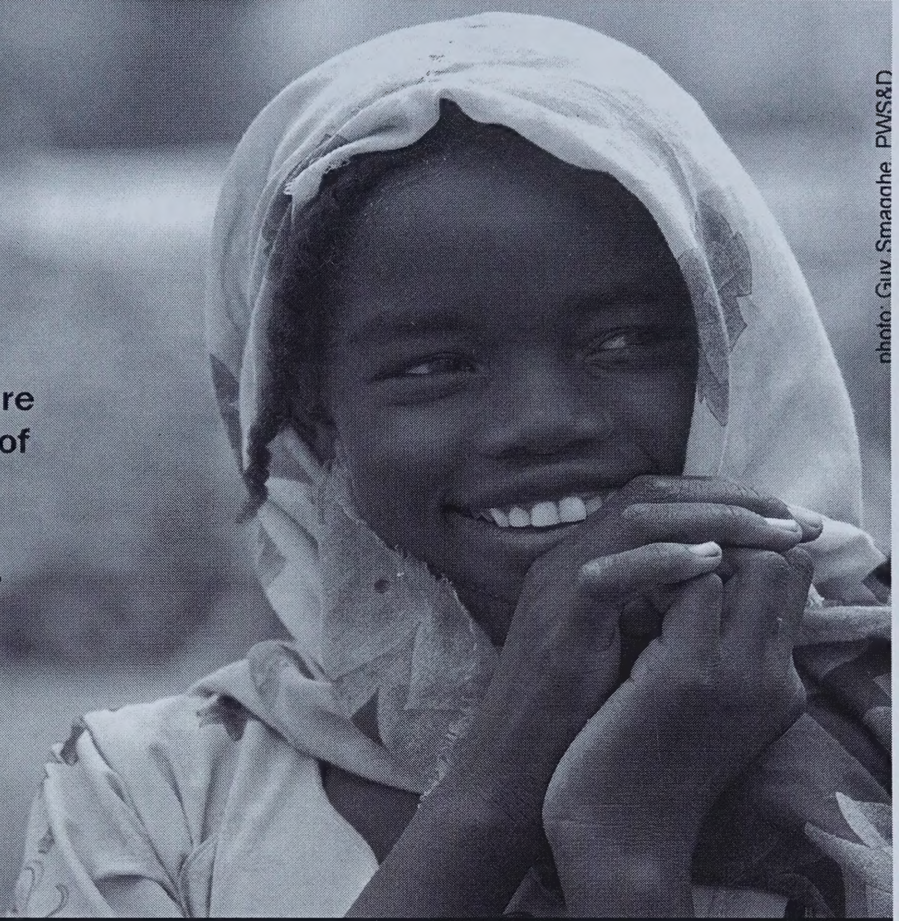
Both Friday and Saturday evenings were filled with fun and laughter—with hilarious skits, games, and singing led by Joan Smith and Doreen Dath. The evenings concluded with worship and refreshments.

On Sunday morning, Lynda prepared spirituality centres for us to participate in, between breakfast and worship. At worship, Lynda and Margaret conducted the communion service. Members of the planning committee also took part in the service. It ended by "passing the peace" with hugs instead of handshakes as we celebrated what had been a weekend of deep spiritual significance.

The members of the committee for this year's event were: The Rev. Lynda Reid, without whose vision, persistence, and experience this event would not have taken place; Jeannette (and Jim!) Courvoisier, Hulda Bulmer, and Ellen Campbell—all from Calvin Church in Sudbury—who ably looked after local arrangements; hard-working registrars Jean Haines and Pat Fremlin from Sault Ste. Marie; Cecilia Morris of Cobourg; Joan Smith, President of Synodical; Doreen Dath, and June Campbell.

Under the excellent leadership of Kathleen McGillivray, singing throughout the weekend provided a wonderful background to all that was happening.

The teachings, silent meditation, music, conversations, laughter, and caring were the culmination of an event carried out under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Praise God indeed for times such as these!



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Mabel Elizabeth Bissell
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(103 years of age)

Myra Lee
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Mrs. Hazel (Webster) Thomson
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Mrs. Edna Thompson
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